NMC grads Santos, Sablan play crucial role in wildlife conservation in the NMI. PAGE 2
Police probe gunshots in Achugao. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 149

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY JULY 26, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

BIDEN RESPONDS TO CNMI'S REQUEST FOR 902 TALKS

Section 902 talks a go

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The 63 students who took part in the SummerTECH Program show their certificates of completion during an award ceremony yesterday at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base.

63 students complete 4th Annual SummerTECH Program

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A total of 63 students were feted during an awards ceremony yesterday after completing five weeks of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the Public School System's 2024 SummerTECH Program at NMTech campus in Lower Base.

During the ceremony, students from PSS schools across Saipan, Tinian and Rota shared their experiences in the summer course.

Hong Zhang, a student at Tinian

See STUDENTS on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

A student fist-bumps Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff after receiving her certificate of completion during the 2024 SummerTECH award ceremony yesterday at the NMTech campus in Lower Base.

Biden

Palacios

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly two months, President Joe Biden has finally responded to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' request for 902 consultations and has designated a representative in his stead.

In a letter issued to Palacios last July 17, Biden responded to the CNMI's request to initiate consultations between the governments of the CNMI and the United States

See 902 on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s board of directors held a special board meeting yesterday to discuss the vacant chief financial officer position.

CUC offers $145K salary to new CFO

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has chosen a new chief financial officer following a special board meeting yesterday. While details about the individual remains undisclosed pending acceptance of the position, CUC has shared that it's offering the candidate an annual salary of $145,000 plus benefits.

During the special board meeting, CUC board of directors unanimously voted to offer the position to an applicant chosen during the second round

See CUC on Page 4

CEDA gets good independent audit findings

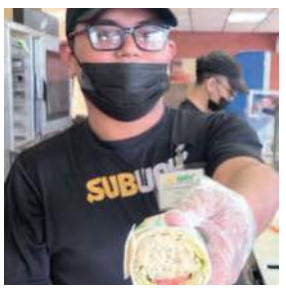
» CEDA says it's affected by negative economic forces at play globally, locally

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority has received a good audit from an independent auditor on its internal control over financial reporting.

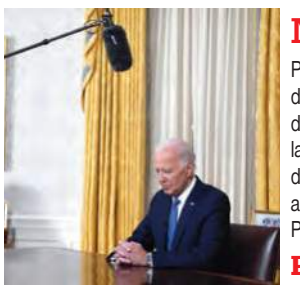
See CEDA on Page 4

INSIDE



ADVERTISING FEATURE
The new Subway wraps debut with the lavash flatbread, a thin and light yet flexible flatbread to snuggle up delicious ingredients in a delicately flavored wrap.
PAGE 7

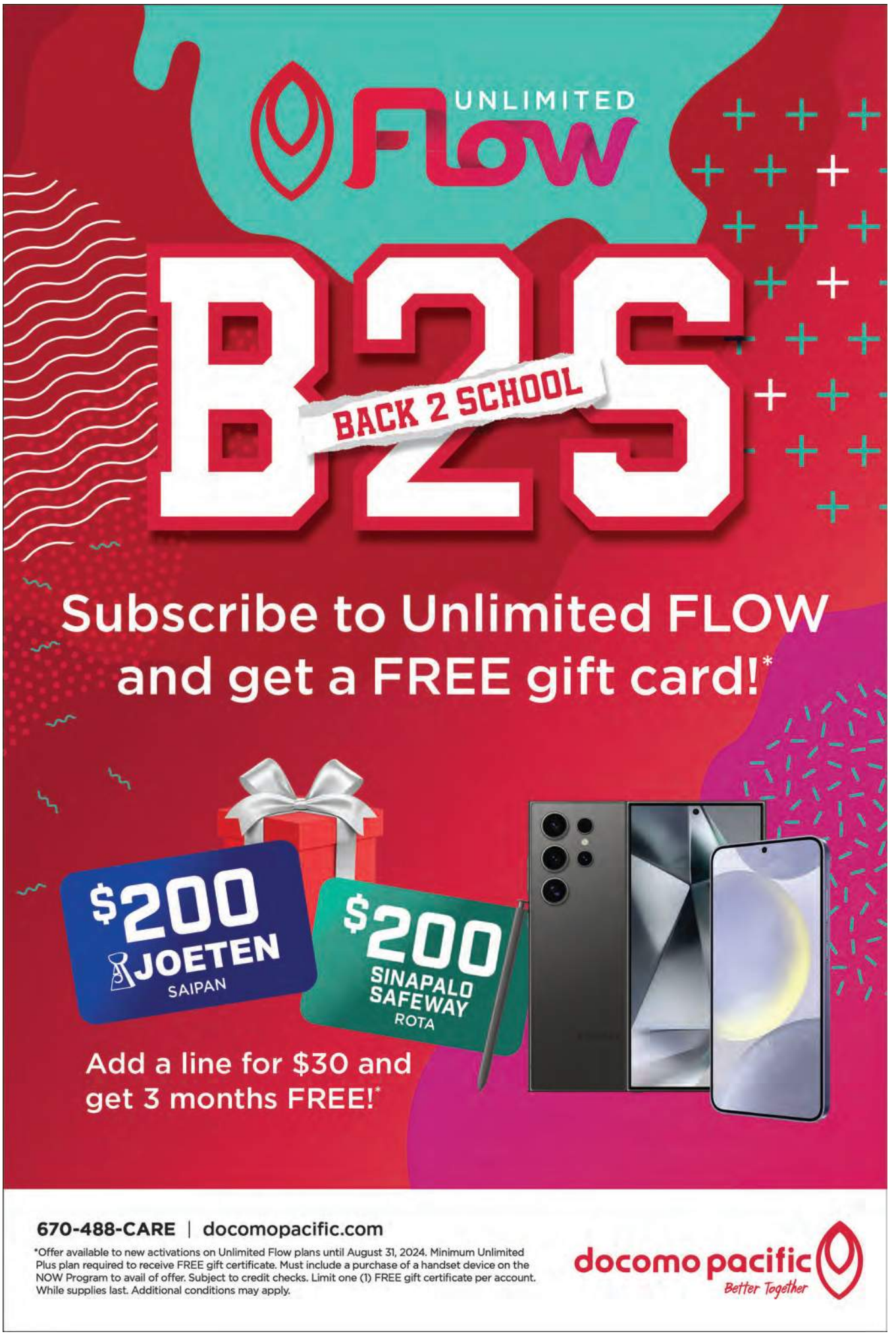
BUSINESS
Kalayaan Inc. marked its 25th anniversary by hosting a special beach party and mini sportsfest from 8am to 3pm last June 15 at San Isidro Beach Park in Chalan Kanoa.
PAGE 14



NATION
President Joe Biden on Wednesday delivered a solemn call to voters to defend the country's democracy as he laid out in an Oval Office address his decision to drop his bid for reelection and throw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris.
PAGE 16

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.


UNLIMITED
Flow
B2S
BACK 2 SCHOOL
Subscribe to Unlimited FLOW
and get a FREE gift card!*
$200
JOETEN
SAIPAN
$200
SINAPALO
SAFEWAY
ROTA
Add a line for $30 and
get 3 months FREE!*
670-488-CARE | docomopacific.com
*Offer available to new activations on Unlimited Flow plans until August 31, 2024. Minimum Unlimited Plus plan required to receive FREE gift certificate. Must include a purchase of a handset device on the NOW Program to avail of offer. Subject to credit checks. Limit one (1) FREE gift certificate per account. While supplies last. Additional conditions may apply.
docomo pacific
Better Together

Local

NMC grads Santos, Sablan play crucial role in wildlife conservation in the NMI

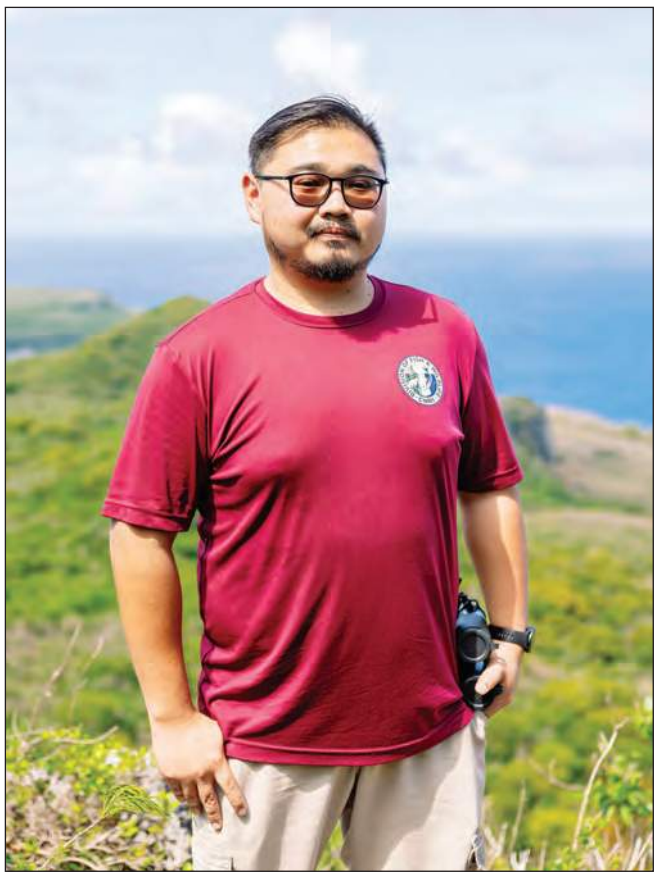
Amanda Santos and Lee Roy Sablan Jr. have gone from graduating Proas of the Northern Marianas College to actively playing a crucial part in the CNMI's bird conservation efforts at the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the CNMI Department of Lands and Nat-

See NMC on Page 3

NMC

Amanda Santos is a wildlife biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife and leads the CNMI's Avifauna conservation projects.

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED
▪ Body Oil Massage
▪ Foot Massage
(with medicine)
▪ Cupping Therapy
(Suction cup massage for back pain)
▪ Sauna
($25 for 2 person)
NOW AVAILABLE
TABLESHOWER, BODYSCRUB & EARPICKING!
Recommended to heal: Back pain, neck pain, insomia, shoulder pain and head pain
Locations: ▪ NEW location → San Antonio, across K Market next to Ranch BBQ
▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: (670) 789-7778
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS



NMC

Lee Roy Sablan Jr. is an assistant wildlife biologist for DFW and works with Amanda Santos on wildlife conservation projects.

NMC

From page 2

ural Resources.

Santos, a Natural Resources Management graduate from NMC in 2014 and a Fisheries and Wildlife Science graduate from Oregon State University in 2017, is a wildlife biologist for DFW and leads the CNMI's Avifauna conservation projects. She works with island endemic, threatened, and endangered bird species.

Sablan, also a Natural Resources Management graduate from 2012, is an assistant wildlife biologist for DFW and works with Santos on wildlife conservation projects. He also is responsible for running a project for wildlife restoration while also assisting with projects run by other biologists.

When discussing what motivated them to pursue their degree at NMC, they discussed the importance of staying close to home and their love for their local environments.

"As an indigenous person of the CNMI, the CNMI's people, land, water, and resources have always been near and dear to my heart, so I wanted to pursue a degree that would allow me to help the CNMI and its resources. I come from a close-knit family, and my family has always sculpted many of the decisions I had to make," said Santos.

She added, "Attending NMC was always my first choice because it allowed me to stay close to home, and my family while still receiving an education. Because of the CNMI Honor Scholarship, SHEFA, and FAFSA, it made attending NMC affordable."

"My motivation stems from a deep love for the environment and the unique ecosystem our islands are home to. Aside from affordability and the closeness to home, NMC had everything I needed at the time to help me grow and learn about our islands and the resources it provided," said Sablan.

When looking back at their time as NMC students, they cited their positive experiences with the various school clubs housed at the college as well as travel opportunities that came with the extracurriculars.

"Some of my favorite memories involved the revitalization of the NRM program and the starting of the Environmental Natural Resource Organization (ENRO) club. I became the first VP of the club and through the program and club affiliation, I was able to travel to Costa Rica and other internship programs," said Sablan.

"One of my favorite memories while attending NMC was participating in a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Costa Rica. This was my first time traveling outside the CNMI and it was very rewarding! I got to network with other students/mentors from different parts of the world. My research then got chosen to be presented at the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, and thanks to funding from NMC I was able to present that research in person in San Antonio, Texas," said Santos.

The most rewarding part of their job is the ability to travel to study wildlife within the CNMI and knowing that their work is for the benefit of the CNMI.

"I get to travel within the CNMI, including the Northern Islands, and study wildlife and all these studies are beneficial to the CNMI in promoting effective conservation and management of native birds in hopes we can co-exist with them," said Santos.

Sablan added, "Knowing that everything we try to accomplish is to the benefit of the CNMI and for the protection of the unique organisms that inhabit these islands, is the most rewarding aspect of my job."

For current Natural Resources Management majors and students planning to pursue a similar career path, they emphasized the importance of using any resources available and knowing there's more than one path to achieving your degree.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help—use all the resources that are available. Take advantage of your instructor's office hours, get a tutor if needed, and form a study group. You don't have to go at this alone! Networking is key," Santos said.

"If this is your goal just know that there is always more than one path to follow for the same finish line," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

dFi+
BACK 2 SCHOOL
Sign up for Internet and get a FREE gift card!*
$200 JOETEN SAIPAN
$200 SINAPALO SAFEWAY ROTA
670-488-CARE | docomopacific.com
*Offer available to residential subscribers in serviceable locations until August 31, 2024. Available to new activations only. Minimum 24-month Internet contract required. Basic installation valued at $99.95, additional installation fees may apply. Limit one (1) FREE gift certificate per account While supplies last. Additional conditions may apply.
docomo pacific
Better Together

ARMATECH
Parking Management System Installer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

SAFETY TIPS
Never tamper the LPG cylinder valve / try not to extract gas from it or other than for it's intended purpose.
When moving the LPG cylinder, lift by the shroud.
You can also roll it on it's foot-ring.
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Police probe gunshots in Achugao

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The quiet neighborhood of Achugao was jolted yesterday afternoon by the sound of gunshots, leading to a rapid response from local law enforcement.

According to Department of Public Safety assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop, dispatch received gunshots reports in the area yesterday afternoon.

Manacop shared that witnesses recounted to officers hearing approximately five gunshots and observed a red Toyota Tacoma pickup truck pulling up to an abandoned residence shortly before the shots were fired. It was confirmed by witnesses that following the incident, the same vehicle was seen leaving the scene.

Manacop

Despite a swift response from officers, the responsible party still remains unidentified, and the case is now an open investigation, according to DPS. The good news is that as of now, no injuries have been reported.

"The case remains active and will be forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Bureau for further investigation," stated Manacop.

As the investigation continues, residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the authorities as DPS works to resolve this case and ensure the safety of the community.

902

From page 1

pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to "establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the U.S. (Covenant).

In his letter, Biden officially appointed Carmen G. Cantor, the assistant secretary of the Interior, as his representative for the 902 consultations.

"I am pleased to inform you that I have designated the honorable Carmen G. Cantor, the assistant secretary of the Interior (Insular and International Affairs), as my special representative for purposes of continuing the consultations that take place between the CNMI and the federal government," Biden wrote.

"I trust that this section 902 consultation will be a vehicle for addressing the critical issues raised by the CNMI," Biden added.

For this round of consultations, Palacios requested to engage with the U.S. government on three priority issues: 1) direct financial assistance under Section 702 of the Covenant; 2) tourism and transportation infrastructure; and 3) access to skilled labor.

"The issues that we will bring to the table are exceedingly timely and relevant," Palacios said.

Palacios said the CNMI looks forward to engaging with assistant secretary Cantor and her team in a transparent and candid discussion about these issues and about how they can work collaboratively toward achieving goals that would mutually benefit the CNMI and the federal government

"As I've stressed in multiple testimonies, speeches, and other forums, the people of the Northern Marianas are proud Americans. We support the position of our country in the Indo-Pacific region and appreciate the partnership of the U.S. government in our shared endeavors. We will approach the consultation sessions from a spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and with a laser-focused aim of improving the lives of the people of the CNMI," he said.

Palacios added that he will be formally appointing, over the next several days, individuals to represent the CNMI for the 902 consultations.

Section 902 of the Covenant provides that the government of the United States and the CNMI will designate special representatives to meet and consider in good faith such issues affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States as may be designated by either government and to make a report and recommendations with respect thereto.

CEDA

From page 1

The Burger Comer & Associates recently informed the CEDA board of directors that during their audit they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses.

The independent auditor, however, said material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

The Office of Public Auditor hired Burger Comer & Associates to conduct an audit on CEDA's statement of net position as of Sept. 30, 2021 and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position and of cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements. OPA released the audit report on Wednesday.

Burger Comer found that CEDA's financial statements present fairly the respective financial position of the CEDA as of Sept. 30, 2021 and the respective changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the USA.

Burger Comer & Associates said the results of their tests of CEDA's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The auditor said there are no unresolved findings from prior year audits of CEDA.

Burger Comer noted that CEDA discloses the economic uncertainties that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic declared by the World Health Organization.

The auditor said their opinion "is not modified with respect to this matter."

CEDA said it is affected by the negative economic forces at play globally as well as locally.

CEDA said the CNMI's economic resiliency was also tested when it was able to recover quickly from two major natural disasters.

The agency noted that the effect of the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China and the global impact of the pandemic in health, economy and tourism has not spared the CNMI which brought the Commonwealth's economic activity to a near stand-still as countries around the world imposed tight restrictions on movement to contain the spread of the virus.

CEDA's biggest challenge in the past was funding its operations from earnings generated from its loan portfolios and investments, and that management addressed this problem through a combination of revenue enhancements and diversifications and expenditure reductions.

According to CEDA, as of Sept. 30, 2021 and 2020, its Development Corporation Division's net loans receivable was $7.77 million and $7.22 million, respectively.

As of Sept. 30, 2021 and 2020, CEDA received total dividend payments of $9.72 million and $8.10 million from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In August 2016, CEDA and CUC entered into a settlement agreement directing CUC to assign the payment it receives from the Public School System settlement agreement and to pay the remaining difference of $478,798 to CEDA.

CEDA said CUC further agrees to make quarterly dividend payments of $270,000 to CEDA beginning on Oct. 1, 2016.

As of Sept. 30, 2021 and 2020, CEDA had $810,366 and $860,569, respectively, of net investment in capital assets. This represents a net decrease of $50,203 or 6% during fiscal year 2021 and of $269,717 or 3% during fiscal year 2020.

As of Sept. 30, 2021, CEDA's total assets was $44.65 million and total liabilities was $7.25 million, or for a total net position of $37.39 million.

As of Sept. 30, 2020, CEDA total assets was $43.88 million and total liabilities was $6.61 million, or for a total of net position of $37.27 million.

CUC

From page 1

of applications.

According to director Simon Sanchez, the candidate will serve as CFO with an annual salary of $145,000, plus standard benefits available to all CUC employees, and standard relocation expenses.

In an interview with board chair Janice Tenorio, she shared in addition to the annual salary, CUC will be offering the off-island candidate relocation expenses of $10,000.

"For the CFO position, we have decided to offer applicant No. 2 the position. She is from off-island. We are offering her a salary of $145,000 plus a $10,000 relocation fee," she said.

Tenorio further explained that the undisclosed candidate, who is originally from Guam, is the second individual to be offered the position.

"We can't disclose the name of the applicant until she accepts the offer. [But] applicant No. 2 is from the island of Guam so she wants to be closer to home and there is nothing more appropriate than bringing back folks from the Marianas. We've offered the position to another applicant [prior to this one] but she rescinded her application. This is the second round," she said.

"We're so happy to be moving forward. Betty Terlaje has been acting for a while as the executive director while also overseeing accounting and the finance department in regard to the audits," she added.

Tenorio noted that the CFO position is part of the federal court's stipulated order and CUC is happy to announce that they've fulfilled the stipulated order.

The CFO position, which was vacated by Greg Cruz, has been vacant since 2022.

"This is long overdue. The only position left to fill pursuant to the stipulated order is the executive director for water and wastewater position," she said.

Currently, the application process for the executive director for water and wastewater position is open and CUC continues to search for a new deputy executive director since current executive director Kevin Watson vacated the position last May.

Watson, who has been with CUC for about two years now, has served in his new capacity since June 1, and will serve for the next two years.

As for contract details, Watson received the same offer previously given to professional engineer Christopher Thiesen; a $200,000 annual salary, $2,000 housing allowance for one year, and a $1,000 car allowance for two years.

STUDENTS

From page 1

Junior/Senior High School, shared, "Today is a very special day for all of us. A day of joy, celebration, reflection, and anticipation for the future to come. We have learned so many things from electrical course, bending pipes, stripping wires, and reconnecting them and then baking cupcakes and cookies."

He admitted he was nervous going into the course but over the weeks had built friendships with other students in the cohort. "We were able to make memories," Zhang added.

Kaden Manglona from Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School shared his experience as well. "For me, it was a very enticing and exciting opportunity to be able to participate in this program. My experience here at NMTech has taught me valuable lessons but with fun, passion, and 100% positive vibes. Like how to use an E-GUN, what tools electricians use from the very basics of electrical work to culinary arts. However, I came to find out that culinary arts is definitely not for me. As my Rice Krispies looked like a rock, felt like a rock, and tasted like an expired job record. My pipes weren't straight either, but despite not being the best student I did indeed enjoy it and had fun learning about it."

Manglona said the experience is something he will never forget in his life and will shape him to be the person he wants to be in the future.

"I'm not fully able to describe with words the sheer 'awesomeness' of NMTech, so I really hope that PSS continues to support this program, as I want other people from my island to be able to have the opportunity that I had."

Each student representative also shared thanks to the teachers and staff that helped them throughout the course, and PSS for making it happen.

In a conversation with NMTech Marketing and Outreach coordinator Ben Babauta Jr. he shared a little more about the cohort.

"We did an exploratory course, so the students did two weeks in electrical and then two weeks in baking and pastry. And another group of students did two weeks in baking and pastry and then two weeks in automotive. So, that was a total of four weeks. Then on Week 5, we had guest speakers in the trades industry that they studied about. And then we also took them to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the electrical component and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan to see the electricals in a hotel. Then we took them to Herman's Bakery to see the bakery in action. Then for the automotive route, we took them to both Atkins Kroll Saipan and Triple J Motors to see the service department and what they learned in class."

Babauta said they catered the programs so that the curriculum is something the students are able to do at home and able to understand the general knowledge and concepts of each trade.

"So, we didn't do too much about getting into the detail, but just introducing them to the trade and knowing that these trades exist in our everyday lives, and they're able now to understand it at home and at school."

Babauta said that for the electrical courses they gave students an introduction to electrical tools, the positive and negative charges, light circuits, and more.

"Actually, one of them had help from their parents and they actually made a light switch at home. So, they took the skills from NMTech and then worked at it at home."

Babauta shared that the 2024 SummerTECH Program had been a collaborative effort.

"In partnership with PSS, we do this every summer. Because of the popularity, we had to open a second cohort, which was automotive and baking and pastry. But now that we know the demand, we are going to prep for next summer to possibly accommodate more students or expand on the trades."

He said that their ultimate goal is to give opportunity to every student in the CNMI.

CNMI SBDC's Christmas in July event happening July 25

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is excited to remind everyone about Saipan's upcoming "Christmas in July" celebration happening Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 5pm to 8pm at the NMC As Terlaje Campus Pine Tree Parking Lot (Bldg V) for a festive evening filled with holiday cheer, entertainment, and community fun.

Event highlights:

■ Holiday-inspired entertainment: Enjoy a lineup of festive performances that will keep the holiday spirit alive throughout the evening brought to you by the Northern Marianas College Club of Artists!

■ Raffle prize drawing: Participate in our exciting raffle prize drawing by picking up a passport program and visiting vendor booths to qualify.

■ Table decorating vendor contest: Witness the creativity of our vendors as they compete for the best holiday-themed booth.

■ Food, drinks, and holiday shopping: Indulge in delicious food, refreshing beverages, and explore unique gifts and novelty items from our vendors.

SBDC is thrilled to showcase an abundance of vendors who will be on-site, ready to offer their amazing products and services:

■ Food and beverages: Benki, Sweet7Oh Catering, Tupu Cane Juice, LanLan Tea House

■ Sweet treats: Crafty Baeker, Cookie Cove, Tropic Treats 670, El Bishu, Divine's Essentials

■ Gifts and more: Bobole's Novelties, #Bumplife Maternity, ChikuChiku, IrieScents, Isla Krafty Corner, RoberToy, NMI Artistry & Designs, Cherrymoon Co., Bibi's Crafts, Aoi_Neko, Flora

Mixed-flowers and gifts

■ Apparel: Divine's Essentials (Plus Size Clothing), Mind2Muscle (Athleisure)

■ Products and services: CNS Inc., LP Beauty, Sammi Photography

■ Activities: Ben Ki (train ride), Bobole's Novelties (360 photo booth), Chiku Chiku (temporary tattoo station)

Important details:

■ Date and Time: July 25, 2024, from 5pm to 8pm

■ Location: NMC As Terlaje Campus Building V Parking Lot

■ Payment information: Please bring cash for purchases. Select vendors will also accept cashless payments (PayPal, etc.)

Christmas in July brings the holiday spirit to midsummer, fostering community togetherness while providing small businesses with an early opportunity to engage with customers and boost sales.

"We're excited to bring this festive event to Saipan and look forward to celebrating with the community," said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, CNMI SBDC Network director. "Christmas in July is not just a celebration, but a significant initiative to support our local entrepreneurs and bring our community together for an evening of spirited enjoyment and unity."

The CNMI SBDC wishes to express their gratitude to the generous support of the Northern Marianas College's Facilities and IT Departments, the NMC Office of Institutional Advancement, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and Shaded Rentals. A special thank you to CNS, Inc. for providing the evening's grand prize for the Best Overall decorating contest winner to be announced at the event.

Don't miss out on this wonderful event! For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network (CNMI SBDC) Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative Office manager Adelpha Magofna at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu. Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. ***(PR)***

NISSAN
NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY
2023 ROGUE®
SALES EVENT
5-Star Safety Ratings
More Stars. Safer Cars.
• 1.5-liter variable compression turbo (VC-Turbo) 3-Cyl Engine
• 33 Miles Per Gallon (combined)
Starting at
$193*
per paycheck
Includes $2,000
Downpayment Assistance
FREE TINT & ZIEBART UNDERCOATING | ONE YEAR FREE GOLD SERVICE
S & SV TRIMS AVAILABLE
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com • Tel. (670) 234-5562
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 12PM
*Some conditions apply, O.A.C., See dealer for details. Offer ends Aug. 31, 2024.
Like us on Facebook
2023 Nissan Rogue S at $33,495 + Doc Fees with 20% down and $2,000 down payment assistance at 6% APR for 72 Months at 26 pay periods per year. Deferred financing $30,178.08

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
ON SALE
REGULAR US LUMBER, RED PLYFORM, "24X24" CERAMIC TILES, PVC S40 CONDUIT, PVC S80 WATER FITTINGS,
AVAILABLE NOW
SALE ITEMS!

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
CARPOLY PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
Make your paint last for a long time!

1 FREE T-shirt with one time purchase of two buckets of
CARPOLY
Professional Paint Solution Provider
First Come First Served, While Stocks Last
LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Scheduled power service interruptions from July 29 to 31

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions on July 29, 30, and 31, 2024.

Monday, July 29, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-1pm

■ Area(s) Affected:(see attached map with a yellow outline)

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two (2) rotted, 40-foot wooden power poles.

CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on July 29.

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

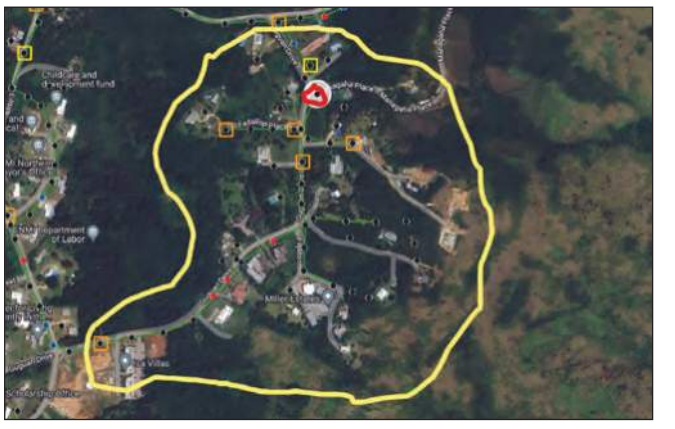
■ Area(s) Affected: Capitol Hill (see attached map with a yellow outline)

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

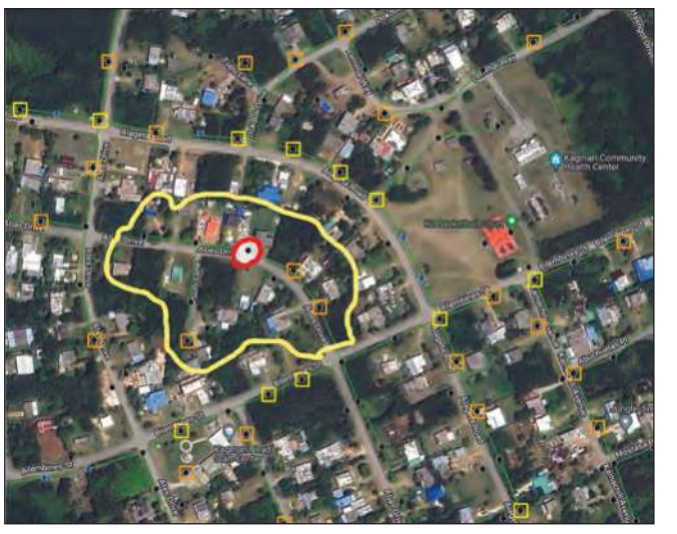
■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a rotted, 40-foot wooden power pole.



CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on July 30.



CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on July 31.

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

■ Area(s) Affected: Kagman 2 (see attached map with a yellow outline)

■ Water Well (s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a cracked 40-foot wooden power pole.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, contact its hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
GROUP HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND
P.O. Box 5234 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-1100 I Fax: (670) 664-1115

ADDENDUM NO. 2

RFP24-GOV-42400111

"Group Health Life Insurance Coverage For Government Employees and Retirees"

June 26, 2024

This **Addendum No. 2** is issued to re-schedule the bid submission and opening date for the above referenced Request for Proposal.

- Proposals must be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies in a sealed envelope with the label "Request for Proposals - **RFP24-GOV-42400111** " clearly marked on the exterior or five (5) electronic copies on five (5) USB Flash Drives. Proposals on the flash drive can be in PDF format unless otherwise stated in this RFP. Proposals shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope or box, and plainly marked on the outside: **Request for Proposals RFP24-GOV-42400111.** Proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 9, 2024 to:

Department of Finance - Division of Procurement Services
c/o Brien Ser Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 510008 CK Saipan, MP 96950

All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s_____
Tracy B. Norita
Secretary of Finance

/s/_____
Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
Acting Director, Procurement Services

End of Addendum No. 2

Subway serves lighter, refreshing wraps this summer

CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, sandwich artists John Dale Castro, John Darrow Pangelinan, and Agatha Borja smile for the *Saipan Tribune* at the Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's summer and a great time to enjoy the incredible lightness of fooding with the new Subway Wraps.

The new Subway wraps debut with the lavash flatbread, a thin and light yet flexible flatbread to snuggle up delicious ingredients in a delicately flavored wrap.

The latest iteration of the Subway Series®, the leading quick service restaurant chain's multi-year menu refresh, the new Subway Wraps is a collection of four refreshing creations, each wrapped in a lavash flatbread.

The #42 Homestyle Chicken Salad is a refreshing wrap of craveable chicken salad (made fresh in restaurant using rotisserie-style chicken) and topped with a mélange of freshly sliced lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and red onion.

Honey Mustard Chicken, #45, is loaded with tender and juicy rotisserie-style chicken topped with a harmonious blend of lettuce, tomatoes, red onions and Monterey cheese, with Subway's Honey Mustard sauce that everyone will surely approve.

For turkey enthusiasts who also want to add a little more protein, the #40 Turkey Bacon and Avocado is for you with the trio of ingredients accompanied by lettuce, tomatoes, red onions Monterey cheddar, and the recommended Pepercorn Ranch sauce.

And let's not leave out those who care to substitute their meat with avocado. If that's you, Cali Caprese and its Bel-Gioioso fresh mozzarella and smashed avocado is a must-try with the selection topped with lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers, with a combo of roasted garlic aioli and MVP Parmesan Vinaigrette and roasted garlic aioli sauce to top it off.

Starting at $9, the price to try one of these refreshing wraps doesn't exceed $11, and the good news is that they're now available at both Subway Saipan branches in Chalan Piao and Gualo Rai.

So, if you're looking for a satisfying 6-inch meal that won't make you feel the least bit guilty (or break the bank), or just a cool snack on a hot day, check out Subway's new wraps today at a Subway restaurant near you.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Subway Sandwich artist John Darrow Pangelinan gives a peek inside the new Homestyle Chicken Salad wrap at the Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Subway customers Dereck Rangamar, Lincoln Manibusan, and Remy Santos pose for *Saipan Tribune* at the Subway Restaurant in Gualo Rai.

Opinion

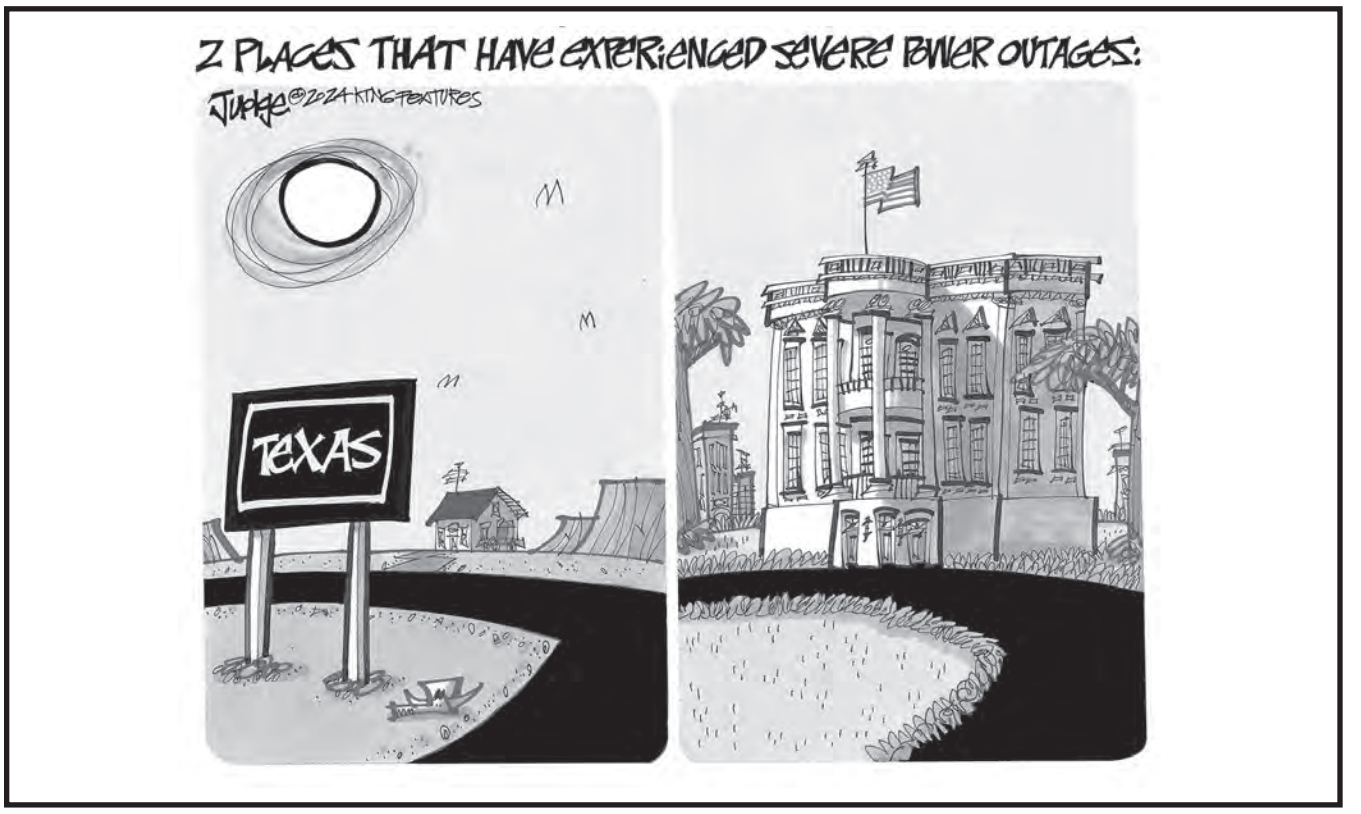
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 149

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Harris can't run from Biden's many messes

Vice President Kamala Harris secured more key endorsements on Monday as she moves toward becoming President Joe Biden's replacement on the Democratic ticket. Nancy Pelosi bestowed her support on the vice president. Chuck Schumer soon followed.

Harris has raked in oodles of cash since Biden dropped his decision Sunday with a posting on X. The Associated Press reports that her campaign has raised more than $81 million in just the past few days.

Her nomination appears increasingly inevitable. While some Democrats grumbled about the process bypassing the rank and file, most expressed relief that the Biden deception is finally over.

But Harris brings her own baggage. Her primary asset is that she's not Biden. She takes the age and senility card off the table for Republicans. The president's very public mental missteps and obvious deterioration were a major concern for voters, particularly among all-important independents. Harris will turn 60 in October. Trump, meanwhile, turned 78 last month.

Harris, though, has never generated the support necessary to prevail in a national campaign. With just two years in the Senate under her belt, she opted to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, but crashed and burned. She dropped out before the primaries began. This time, she'd have the full resources of her party behind her, but that will be of little solace if her message remains muddled and her appeal an inch deep.

She's also tied to the hip of an unpopular president.

Polls show voters highly dissatisfied with the current White House on a number of issues, including immigration and the economy. Yet Harris has been a cheerleader for the very policies that created the highest inflation in four decades, wreaking havoc on middle-class families.

She did little to quell the mess at the southern border after Biden tasked her with uncovering the "root causes" of illegal crossings. Harris has also been part of an administration that has exerted more pressure on our ally Israel than on Hamas terrorists to lay down arms in the Middle East.

If anything, Harris is to the left of Biden on social issues, embracing the scourge of wokeism. She's a staunch defender of the right to abortion—a winning issue for Democrats following the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision—yet refuses to advocate for any limits on the procedure, sanctioning abortion up until birth, an extreme position.

These are all issues that Trump can exploit if he runs a disciplined, inclusive campaign that focuses on strengthening the country moving forward. The Democrats may have their new face, but she's burdened with the same old record.

©2024 Las Vegas Review-Journal.

After Biden, some questions—and answers

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News.

President Joe Biden's abrupt withdrawal from the 2024 presidential race raised more questions than it provided answers. Here are some:

Why did Biden pull out?

That's easy. Top aides finally convinced him he couldn't win. Trailing former President Donald Trump all year, Biden's prospects never recovered from his disastrous performance in the June 27 debate that his team erroneously thought could jumpstart his campaign.

Will Vice President Kamala Harris be opposed for the Democratic nomination?

Almost certainly, no. In two days, she secured enough delegate commitments to clinch the nomination after most top Democrats quickly joined Biden in backing her. West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who switched his registration to independent, talked vaguely of the need for a process appealing to independents, but decided not to run. The Democrats are adopting rules for the 4,000 elected delegates to formally pick the nominee by August 7. Though committed to Biden, they are free to vote for anyone.

Will Harris face legal problems as Biden's replacement?

Some Republicans are threatening legal challenges on grounds the delegates were elected to support Biden. But nominations are up to the political parties, and the Democrats had never formalized Biden's nomination.

What has Harris done?

She moved fast right after Biden's announcement, methodically lining up support from key individuals and constituencies. The Biden-Harris Committee is now The Harris Committee, the campaign apparatus is hers, and the money flow, which had dried up, resumed with a flood of dollars, raising an amazing $81 million in just 24 hours.

In a speech to campaign workers Monday, she showed how she will use her prosecutor's background to criticize Trump and outlined her vision of ways she hopes to help the middle class.

What about her reputation as a poor campaigner?

That may be old news. Admittedly, she was a poor campaigner when she sought the 2020 Democratic nomination, stumbling over complex issues like Medicare for All. But she was a pretty good debater, a valuable presidential campaign asset.

She struggled at the outset to find her role as vice president but found her voice after the Supreme Court reversed its prior approval of abortion rights and opened the way for Republican-led states to ban or restrict abortions. She'll face far closer scrutiny running for president than running for vice president, but Monday's speech was a good start.

How big a problem is the immigration issue?

A big one, as it was for Biden. Maybe bigger. Biden initially assigned her to deal with the Central American roots of the influx of illegal immigrants into the United States. She stumbled in public discussion of the issue, and Republicans pounced, magnifying her actual role, incorrectly calling her the "Border Czar" and blaming her for the administration's failures. She has since moved on to other issues, like women's rights, but can expect renewed GOP focus on immigration, which Trump considers one of his best issues, as it was in 2016.

Who would be the best running mate?

A white male in elective office with a moderate reputation.

One obvious candidate: Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, 60, a former Navy pilot and astronaut married to former Rep. Gabby Giffords, who was seriously wounded in a 2011 assassination attempt and has since become a leading spokesperson for increased gun control. Arizona is an important swing state, as is neighboring Nevada.

Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina, 67, is highly regarded but little known. Cooper is a former state attorney general like Harris, now completing his second term as governor. He has experience tussling with Republicans in the closely divided state.

Gov. Andy Beshear of Kentucky, 46, is another former attorney general who twice won the governorship in what has become a very Republican state.

Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, 51, is another former attorney general who was elected two years ago. He is the only Jewish contender. Pennsylvania may be the single most crucial battleground state in the election.

Can she beat Donald Trump?

The biggest question of all. The answer: It is too soon to tell.

Like Biden, Harris starts out as an underdog in a race where recent polls showed Trump's advantage in key states increased after last month's debate and may get a bounce from the Republican National Convention.

Scattered polling showed Harris might be stronger than Biden, but any true measure of their current strengths awaits her first appearances as the presumptive nominee. She may surpass Biden among younger voters, minorities and women in general, but is unlikely to poll as strongly among white males as Biden and could encounter problems in the crucial Rust Belt states.

Best case scenario?

Harris, 59, provides the age contrast with Trump, 78, that many voters sought when faced with a Biden-Trump rematch. She proves a strong debater against the former president. And Trump turns off independents by overdoing the personal attacks on Harris, who is the first Black woman and first with South

See BIDEN on Page 9

Guns aren't as good for self-defense as America thinks

By F.D. FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

F.D. Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the "Follow the Science" podcast.

A couple of hours before a young man shot an AR-15 rifle at former President Donald Trump, killing one bystander and wounding others, I had been finishing a column about gun violence as a public health threat. It was an eerie coincidence but not an unlikely one: More than 100 people die from gunshots on an average day in the United States.

In June, the surgeon general declared gun violence a public health crisis. Data show it's now the leading cause of death for American kids 17 and under. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2022, there were 48,000 deaths from firearms, about 40% of which are homicides. Many more people were disabled or maimed. And yet many Americans believe owning a gun makes them safer. In fact, self-defense is the number one reason people give for owning a gun.

Like other public health crises, gun violence has been studied, and scientists have data pointing to ways the carnage can be reduced. But Congress has been slow to pass any laws that would meaningfully restrict gun violence. Although there are more gun safety laws at the state level, the Supreme Court and lower courts have rolled some of them back, sometimes pointing to data allegedly showing guns make people safer. Those data are being grossly misinterpreted.

In the precedent-reversing 2022 New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen decision, which struck down longstanding restriction on who could carry a handgun in New York, justices cited an unpublished survey that seemed to show guns are used well over a million times a year in self-defense. That survey, by Georgetown University researcher William English, was paid for by the gun lobby, according to reporting by the New York Times, who also picked apart his research methods. English responded in a WSJ op-ed, arguing that he'd not hidden his funding sources—they were declared in all his published work.

But research funding is only part of the story. English's research raised a different question: Are his estimates credible? What do they tell us about the overall impact of guns on public health? How do they line up with what other researchers have found?

Stanford University law professor John Donohue said in the 35 years he's been doing gun research, he's never seen any work by English that met "what I consider to be the relatively low standards it takes to get something published."

Part of the reason English found so many defensive uses of guns is that he allowed survey respondents to define "self-defense" for themselves. When I asked him about the 1.67 million number, he said in only 300,000 of those cases was a shot likely fired. He estimated that in 852,000 times the gun was only brandished, and in about 518,000 times neither happens—e.g. someone may have said they had a gun to intimidate the other party.

But David Hemenway, a professor of public health at Harvard, says it can be a problem to define self-defense so broadly. Hemenway has also done surveys asking people about their defensive use of guns, and he says most are not defending themselves against a mugger or a rapist. They are more like the subject who told Hemenway he went and got his gun after arguing with a neighbor who threw a beer. Or the guy who said that the alarm at his business went off, so he went down to the site, saw people standing outside on the sidewalk, and shot the ground. Or two groups of young men who exchanged gunfire at a gas station at 3 a.m. Should any of these cases really be considered self-defense?

To look more directly at how guns may be used by innocent people to defend themselves from criminals, he and other researchers have looked to a dataset from the National Crime Victimization Survey, put together each year by the Census Bureau and the Department of Justice. Recently that's included more than 200,000 people. They're asked whether they were victims of a crime or attempted crime and how they responded.

The results, said Hemenway, show that in cases where a person was present during a crime attempt, only about 1% responded by using or brandishing a gun. Extrapolating to the population at large, the data suggest fewer than 100,000 incidents each year in which guns are used to defend against actual criminals.

What's often missed in surveys such as the one English conducted, said Stanford's Donohue, are the cases where something went horribly wrong. He's thinking of a man responding to a break-in and shooting his 16-year-old son by mistake, or a man who used a gun to pursue someone who robbed him at an ATM, in the process shooting a 9-year-old girl on her way to a Valentine's Day party.

Other researchers have tried to answer a different question—does having a gun with you make you safer? In 2017, 75% of gun owners told Pew Research they believed that it did.

But Donohue said he was impressed by a 2022 study by colleague David Studdert, comparing gun-owning households and gun-free households in comparable neighborhoods and showing the gun-owning households were twice as likely to die by homicide. And in that 2017 Pew survey, gun owners were three times as likely to have ever been shot as non-gun owners.

Back in 2009, Charles Branas, now a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University, was at the University of Pennsylvania and gathered data on shootings in Philadelphia between 2003 and 2006. He compared the victims to a control group matched for age, sex and race who had not been shot. His results, published in the American Journal of Public Health, showed the shooting victims were four times as likely as non-victims to be carrying a gun at the time.

I wrote about that study for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and quoted critics who pointed out that cause and effect are hard to tease out. The correlation might be explained by the gun carriers living in more dangerous situations than the unarmed group. Or it could be that gun owners felt braver, and avoided de-escalation because they felt protected by their firearm.

Suicides by guns have spiked over the last decade, and make up the majority of gun-related deaths. Experts say many of these are impulsive acts by people who might have had a chance to recover from their suicidal thoughts if a gun wasn't easily available.

The cost of gun proliferation is clear in terms of homicides, suicides and accidents, but it's harder to compute the other side of the balance—the benefits people derive from the ability to protect themselves. Gun researchers can't conduct a randomized controlled trial, handing out guns to a subset of volunteers the way they would with a new medicine.

Instead, the pro-gun side is assuming that in these allegedly defensive gun uses, someone would have been hurt or killed if not for their gun. It's the kind of assumption that's fooled patients and doctors into believing in unnecessary or unhelpful treatment or prevention strategies. In this case, the most careful, thoughtful studies show how those assumptions are wrongheaded.

Neither Hemenway or Donohue have come across any studies that show more firearms make for a safer or healthier society—and no evidence that the proliferation of semiautomatic rifles like AR-15s make people safer.

English wrote that he thought guns like the AR-15 were "rather ideal for home defense," which was the primary reason people say they buy them. Other researchers disagree. These are guns developed to kill on the battlefield—as Hemenway puts it, "to rip up your insides." Donohue pointed out that the defensive benefits of such guns is "zero" because if it's someone breaking into your house, you don't need a weapon that can shoot 400 yards. And because these guns can shoot through walls, it creates more potential for hurting innocent bystanders. In the hands of a criminal, an AR-15-style rifle can deter police from intervening to restore safety, as reportedly happened in Uvalde, Texas.

Yet gun enthusiasts keep buying them. Nancy Lanza believed she needed an assault rifle to protect herself in the upscale neighborhood of Sandy Hook, Connecticut. She was later gunned down by her own troubled son before he went to an elementary school and killed 26 people, most of them children.

This week, investigators are desperately searching for missed signs that would have identified the shooter in Butler, Pennsylvania, before his assassination attempt, but so far they've found nothing in the way of motives. Except of course that he appeared to be a loner, possibly troubled, and thanks to his parents' gun collection, with easy access to a very dangerous weapon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Picnic table with legs: A serious concern

This is an attempt at satire to bring some levity to an otherwise serious concern of theft

We showed up to work on Monday morning this week to find that our office picnic table had walked away over the weekend. Upon review of our security camera recordings, we obtained footage of (among other things) a pair of legs walking off with an oversized picnic table draped over them. Apparently, the table was tired of guarding the office and decided to abandon its post at approximately 6am on Sunday. Interestingly, the picnic table also managed to coax a metal trash can from outside the office into leaving, mounted itself on top of a small, white sedan and drove off.

Police were notified and we are hoping to get the rest of the story about the mysterious picnic table with legs and the shiny trash can. We only want what's best for them both and wish for their safe return home.

In the meantime, if anybody happened to see or know anything about a solid picnic table straddling atop a small white sedan and going down Navy Hill in the early morning on Sunday, please call the OVR Office at (670) 322-6537/8 or contact us online at www.ovrgov.net or call the Department of Public Safety to let us know.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation was established to provide VR services for eligible individuals with disabilities, consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, so that they may prepare for and engage in competitive integrated employment or supported employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency. To be eligible for the VR program, individuals must have a physical or mental impairment that results in a substantial impediment to employment, require and can benefit from VR services to achieve employment and maximize career goals. In addition to serving individuals determined eligible for the VR program, OVR must also provide pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities who are potentially eligible for the VR program.

Jim Rayphand
Office of Vocation Rehabilitation executive director

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Picture of the "runaway" picnic table and trash can.

BIDEN

From page 8

Asian roots to hold national office. That could enable her to restore enough of the Democratic coalition that helped elect Biden and former President Barack Obama.

Worst case scenario?

She is as poor a campaigner as when she sought the 2020 nomination. She struggles to defend the administration's record, especially on immigration. Picking a moderate running mate fails to moderate her liberal image.

Biggest uncertainty?

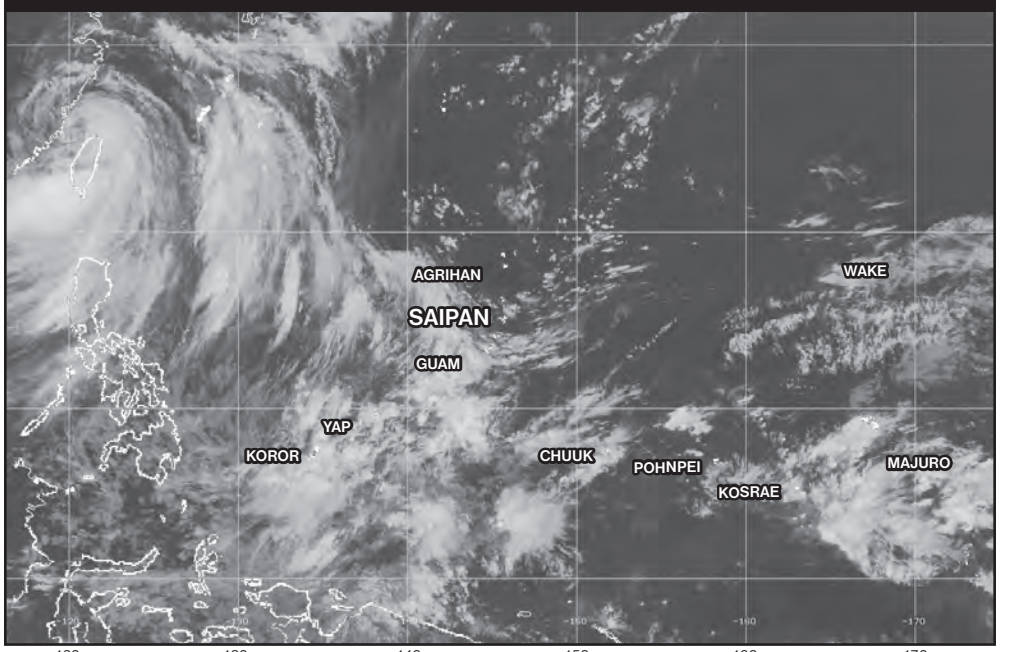
The United States elected a Black president (Obama) but has never elected a woman. What about a woman of color?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.
87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:08 AM THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds will be 10 to 15 knots through Friday night, then will start to diminish. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will start slow but ramp up over the next few days. Seas of 3 to 5 feet will maintain benign marine conditions through the forecast period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:23 AM	10:40 PM
Saturday	-	11:19 AM	11:21 PM
Sunday	-	12:17 PM	-
Monday	12:05 AM	1:15 PM	-
Tuesday	12:52 AM	2:16 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 53°
Beijing	Cloudy	97° / 74°
Hong Kong	Fair	90° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Cloudy	71° / 60°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 61°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 40°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	91° / 75°
Osaka	Showers	83° / 75°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	83° / 62°
Busan	Rain	74° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	96° / 69°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Seoul	Cloudy	89° / 78°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:38 AM	Low Tide	0.98
10:50 AM	High Tide	1.92
5:30 PM	Low Tide	0.41
11:58 PM	High Tide	2.17

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Gov't, community leaders briefed in advance of Guam Flight Test

ASAN, Guam—John Bier, program director for the Guam Defense System for the Missile Defense Agency; Rear Adm. Greg Huffman, commander, Joint Task Force-Micronesia; Rear Adm. Brent DeVore, commander, Joint Region Marianas; and Brig. Gen. Thomas Palenske, commander, 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, met with Government of Guam and community leaders in a series of briefings, July 23-24. The briefings provided an overview of the Proposed Final Guam Flight Test Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment that is currently available for public comment.

Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero and her cabinet, Guam Congressional Delegate James Moylan (R-GU), members of the 37th Guam Legislature, the Mayors Council of Guam, and the Guam Chamber of Commerce were provided the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to subject matter experts from the MDA. Topics of discussion ranged from the proposed missile defense flight test or target tracking exercises conducted from Anderson Air Force Base, in Guam, or at sea from a Navy ship in the western Pacific Ocean (Proposed Action).

The Proposed Action includes conducting up to two flight tests or tracking exercises per year over a 10-year period from AAFB. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to validate the interoperability of multiple sensors and interceptor systems that could become part of a missile defense system developed to protect Guam. Access to select private properties on the boundary of AAFB would need to be restricted during flight test events to ensure public safety.

Additionally, MDA will host an open house on Thursday, July 25, from 5pm to 8pm at the Dededo Community Senior Center. This open house will provide the public with an opportunity to provide comments and receive additional information and ask questions to members of the Missile Defense Agency, Joint Region Marianas and other cooperating agencies.

"This will be an important flight test to validate the interoperability of multiple sensors and interceptor systems from MDA, Army and Navy that could become part of a missile defense system to protect Guam," said Bier. "Public safety and environmental health are vital considerations to MDA, and we are happy to share our assessments for both with the people of Guam."

The Proposed Final EA/OEA and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is available for download at https://www.mda.mil/global/documents/pdf/GuamFlightTestProposedFinalEAMay2024PublicRelease.pdf or visit the Dededo or Nieves M. Flores Memorial public library to view a printed copy. Public comments may be submitted at the open house, by email to info@GFT-EA.com, or by postal mail to: ManTech International ATTN: Guam Flight Test EA Project Support, PMB 403, 1270 N. Marine Corps Dr., Suite 101, Tamuning, Guam 96913-4331. Comments should be submitted by Aug. 2, 2024.

Imagery of the meetings can be found at https://www.dvidshub.net/image/8548787/missile-defense-agency-military-leaders-brief-government-and-community-leaders-advance-guam-flight-test. Additionally, more information about the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense (EIAMD) System on Guam is available at https://www.mda.mil/system/eiamd/. ***(PR)***

Guam removes statute of limitations for financial and property exploitation, abuse of elderly person, individuals with disability

GUAM—Bill No. 243-37 (COR) is now known as Public Law 37-115, after the island's chief executive signed the legislation into Guam law on July 22.

The law, authored by Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, removes the statute of limitations in civil claims for financial or property exploitation and abuse of an elderly person or individuals with disability.

"Thank you to Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and my colleagues in the 37th Guam Legislature for enacting this much-needed legislation that puts the law on the side of victims of financial and property exploitation, and abuse," said Sen. San Nicolas. "Public Law 37-115 will help support our manåmko and individuals with disabilities by lifting the statute of limitations for those who seek justice. This law protects and helps manåmko and people with disabilities find justice in incidents of financial and property exploitation, and abuse."

According to the National Council on Aging, up to five million older Americans are abused every year, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least $36.5 billion. The Council also states that in about 60% of elderly abuse incidents, the perpetrator is a family member, usually the spouse or the children of the victim. ***(PR)***

Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce hosts annual Fundraising Event 'Sips'

HAGATNA, Guam—The Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce its annual fundraiser,"Sips," is back! Join us on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 6pm to 9pm at Anemos Mediterranean Restaurant for an unforgettable evening dedicated to empowerment and connection.

"Sips" offers a unique culinary experience featuring a sumptuous five-course dinner, each dish expertly paired with curated drinks to enhance every flavor. This event is the perfect opportunity for attendees to network, connect with like-minded individuals, and enjoy a delightful evening out. Whether you're looking for a sophisticated girls' night or a memorable date night, "Sips" promises an ambiance of elegance and camaraderie.

A portion of the proceeds from "Sips" will be donated to a nonprofit organization that empowers and inspires girls, ensuring that your participation directly contributes to the betterment of our community.

The evening doesn't end with dinner. Attendees are invited to continue the celebration at Club Zoh, where Manila's renowned DJ Ron Poe will be spinning the best beats, creating a lively and enjoyable atmosphere to round off the night.

Don't miss this extraordinary event that combines gourmet dining, excellent company, and a worthy cause. Secure your spot now and be part of an evening that promises not only to delight your palate but also to uplift the next generation of women.

Call to action: Tickets for "Sips" are limited and selling fast. Visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QkpmvAJSNUkG4ssgsJnhM4ZuXFQAQeXlhcGpCNiJ FVM/edit#responses to secure your reservation today. For more information, please contact the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce at connect@guamwomenschamber.com. ***(PR)***

OIA applauds release of 2022 Economic Census of Island Areas for US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor recently applauded the U.S. Census Bureau's recently released 2022 Economic Census of Island Areas for American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Conducted every five years, the economic census is the most comprehensive measure of economic activity providing island and local economic estimates at various industry levels. This includes information on the number of business establishments, total employment, annual payroll, total sales, and select expenses and inventories in these jurisdictions. The economic census data were released for the Pacific territories in June and the USVI on July 9, and are available on the U.S. Census Bureau's website: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/island-areas/2022.html.

"Because the territories are often excluded from federal data collection efforts, we applaud the U.S. Census Bureau's inclusion of the U.S. territories in these very important federal statistics," said Assistant Secretary Cantor. "This information is critical to business and governments alike, helping them understand trends in the composition of employer businesses in the U.S. territories, and the jobs they support."

The Census Bureau's inclusion of the U.S. territories in the economic census is an important example of the U.S. government's role in producing data that can guide decision making, evaluate programs, and measure performance in the territories. Currently the U.S. territories face many data gaps, primarily because they are not included in many federal statistical products, as was identified in a May 2024 GAO report on territorial data.

The Office of Insular Affairs, in its role to serve and support the needs of the people living in the U.S. territories, advocates for the development of meaningful statistics for these insular areas. This support has historically included assistance to territories and federal agencies to fill the data gaps. Recently, during a House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, OIA testified in support of GAO's recommendation for improved coordination across the federal community to address the persistent barriers and to meet the unique needs of the U.S. territories. To further support this dialogue, OIA is evaluating opportunities for more meaningful territorial statistics into the future.

The Census Bureau's Economic Census of Island Areas demonstrates that the inclusion of the territories in the federal statistics is achievable and brings significant value in the ability to understand and respond to the needs of the U.S. territories effectively and efficiently.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. ***(PR)***

PSS, CHCC VACCINATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP PSS

Last July 19, the Public School System, represented by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, and the Public Health Immunization Program team of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. convened to start working together to meet the goal of reaching a 100% immunization rate. Following the meeting, Camacho and Emman Parian, manager of CHCC's Immunization Program, and his team—Gloria Ramon, Adolescent & Adult Services coordinator; Keanna Villagomez Lin, Policies, Partnerships, and Communications coordinator; Cyji C. Tenorio, Immunization Information System coordinator; and John Dax Moreno, Vaccines for Children coordinator, announced plans for a district-wide immunization and health certificates for all public school students across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of July 26, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	6/27/2024 SPI-2024-062	Agatan Stream/South Achugao Drainage & Road Improvements and Construction of Concrete Head Wall Inlet/Outlet & Swale Project	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 7/15/2024
2.	Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates	7/1/2024 SPIm-2024-063	Soil Investigation Report	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 7/17/2024
3.	Marianas Sports Club, Inc. dba MSC	7/9/2024 SLR-2024-064	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 7/18/2024
4.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	7/1/2024 RMS-2024-065	Rota Route 103 Improvement Project	Sinapalo, Rota	Major Siting	Certified Complete* 7/25/2024
5.	Windsurfing, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Club	7/3/2024 SSm-2024-067	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/11/2024
6.	Aquaville, Inc. dba Aqua Water Sports	7/11/2024 SLR-2024-069	Commercial Parasailing Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 7/18/2024
7.	GPPC Marine, LLC.	7/15/2024 SPIm-2024-070	Drydock Activities	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Certified Complete* 7/18/2024
8.	Saipan Marine Dive Co., Ltd.	7/15/2024 SLR-2024-071	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
9.	Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	7/18/2024 SPIm-2024-072	Drydock Activities	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Application Under Review*
10.	JARRWC	7/18/2024 TSm-2024-004	Recovery & Repatriation of WW2 Remains	Unai Babui & Suicide Cliff, Tinian	Shoreline	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

WSCUC reaffirms 8 years of accreditation for UOG

The University of Guam proudly announces reaffirmation of another eight years of accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. This achievement marks the third consecutive review period with a reaffirmation of eight years accreditation, reinforcing UOG's commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement.

A WSCUC Review Team met with UOG administrators, faculty, staff, students, and board members in February and presented preliminary findings at the end of their visit. The letter finalized the commendations and areas for development and provided the commission's recommendation for eight years of accreditation as a result of their review.

Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG president, expressed her pride in this accomplishment, stating, "This reaffirmation of accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, administrators, and students. It underscores our commitment to providing high-quality education and fostering a supportive high impact learning environment. We are honored to receive such positive recognition and will continue to build on our strengths while addressing areas for growth."

WSCUC's commendations reflect the University of Guam's dedication to maintaining high standards in education, research, and community engagement. The accreditation process involved a thorough evaluation of UOG's academic programs, institutional integrity, and commitment to student success.

Key commendations:

1. Stable Leadership: Persevering through a series of challenges such as the pandemic, typhoon, and leadership changes, ensuring support for faculty, staff, and students throughout.

2. Commitment to Student Success: Participating in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' student success equity intensive, identifying barriers to student success, closing equity gaps, and supporting student success outcomes.

3. Academic Excellence through Island Wisdom: Designing and integrating island wisdom throughout the curriculum and co-curriculum to showcase Guam's unique culture and identity, creating a distinctive higher education experience that positions the university as a mission-driven institution and a hub for partnerships with the local and regional communities.

4. Financial Management: Proposing and implementing a budget strategy that aligns the institution's financial allocations with its highest priorities.

5. An Engaged Board of Regents: Garnering strong support from the Board of Regents who demonstrate a deep understanding of the University of Guam's challenges and opportunities, coupled with strategic planning for its future.

6. Community Engagement: Embodying its mission with a strong sense of collegiality, deeply rooted in the local culture, place, and community.

7. Research Impact: Deliberately expanding its research portfolio to benefit the community and region.

While the commission identified certain areas for development, such as enhancing student services and expanding online learning capabilities, President Enriquez noted that many of these are actively being addressed by the University.

"Our accreditation by WSCUC reaffirms our status as a leading institution in the Pacific," said Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, senior vice president and provost. "It highlights the diversity and impact of our research, as well as our dedication to student success. We are excited to continue our journey of academic excellence and innovation."

In the WSCUC notification letter, Jamienne S. Studley, WSCUC president and CEO, commended UOG's efforts, saying, "The University of Guam has demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment to academic quality. The progress made in various domains is commendable, and we are confident in the institution's direction and ongoing initiatives."

The University of Guam remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and excellence. This continued accreditation by WSCUC affirms UOG's achievements and sets a solid foundation for future advancements.The WSCUC's letter to the University of Guam can be viewed online at: www.uog.edu/accreditation.

About the University of Guam

The University of Guam is a U.S. accredited, regional, Land Grant and Sea Grant institution. Through its mission of Ina, Deskubre, Setbe, UOG is dedicated to the discovery, generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge through teaching, research, extension, and public service in Guam and Micronesia. With a focus on island values, UOG offers a unique educational experience that prepares its students to succeed in a global environment. ***(PR)***

UOG

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission accreditation review team conducted a site visit of the University of Guam from Feb. 28 to March 1, 2024 as part of the university's Reaffirmation of Accreditation process. The team reviewed UOG's institutional report and met with the Board of Regents, faculty, staff, administrators, students, and the public during their visit. On July 18, WSCUC reaffirmed eight years of accreditation for UOG until 2032. From left, Thomas Parham, team chair; Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG president; Susan Clapper, team assistant chair; and David Ely, team member, and Michael Carson, UOG associate professor of Archaeology. Not shown: Seri Luangphinith, team member, Luoluo Hong, team member; and Barbara Gross Davis, WSCUC staff liaison and vice president.

SAIPAN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
40th SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
July 13-14, 2024
Smiling Cove Marina
Thank you Sponsors
GOLD SPONSORS
Budweiser
Mobil synergy
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
docomo pacific Better Together
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
HAW'N ROCK PRODUCTS SAIPAN
IUI pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
CIC Century Insurance
Paradise Dental Spa
Customers First TRIPLE J
MICRO BLACK CORPORATION
SILVER SPONSORS
BRIDGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT • COCA-COLA/FOREMOST
JOETEN MOTORS • RNV CONSTRUCTION • MATSON • SAIPAN SHIPPING
PEREZ SPORT FISHING FOUNDATION • ATKINS KROLL TOYOTA
JEM MOBIL STATIONS
BRONZE SPONSORS
CTSI LOGISTICS • FISHING TACKLE & SPORTING GOODS • GPPC INC.
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY • HITMAN LURES • ISHOP
• JET HOLDINGS • JMI SAIPAN, INC.
JWS AIRCONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION • KAUTZ GLASS
LAST SHOT BAR SAIPAN • MICRONESIAN MARINE • PACIFIC BASIN INSURANCE
TINIAN SHIPPING • TORRES BROTHERS
UNITED MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL • YCO HARDWARE
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB • BL MACHINE SHOP • PESKA TACKLE • TOHATSU
CORAL REEF MARINE • MARIANA ISLANDS NATURE ALLIANCE
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
CNMI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE • DPS – BOATING SAFETY
CONG. VINCE "KOBRE" ALDAN • HOUSE SPEAKER EDMUND VILLAGOMEZ
SAIPAN MAYOR'S OFFICE

Business

Kalayaan Inc. marks silver anniversary with beach bash

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Kalayaan Inc. marked its 25th anniversary by hosting a special beach party and mini sportsfest from 8am to 3pm last June 15 at San Isidro Beach Park in Chalan Kanoa.

The festivities were attended by employees of Kalayaan Inc. and their families, business partners, friends, as well as special guests, according to the local catering company's president Eleanor Alinas.

Among the VIP guests in attendance were Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Manny Castro (Ind-Saipan), Division of Customs and Biosecurity Director Jose Mafnas and his wife Geri, Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan), Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy corporate director Jennie Mafnas, special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez, and Saipan Select co-owner and former Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Clyde Norita.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orange Tiger won the overall championship during Kalayaan Inc.'s mini sportsfest held during the local catering company's 25th anniversary celebration held last June 15 at San Isidro Beach Park in Chalan Kanoa. Fifth from right is Kalayaan Inc. president Eleanor Alinas.

During the anniversary bash, Kalayaan Inc. received a couple of legislative resolutions that thanked the company for its years of service to the island community.

The first was a Senate resolution introduced by Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and the second was a House resolution presented to Kalayaan Inc. by Apatang, Villagomez, and Castro. Both commemorative resolutions congratulated and commended Kalayaan Inc. on the occasion of its 25th anniversary as one of the top food manufacturing companies in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best in Costume went to Blue Knights' Joey Cueto.

"We are grateful to the Public School System and the CNMI community for providing a platform for small businesses like ours to thrive and grow. Kalayaan Inc. has experienced challenges that threatened the very survival of our existence, but we persevered because we were blessed with team members who cared for and along with the company, persevered. We want to thank all employees, past and present, for being a part of the company's growth over the years. We also want to thank all the schoolchildren whom we have served over our 25-year history. We are blessed to have been given this opportunity," said Alinas.

She admitted though that like all businesses in the CNMI, Kalayaan Inc. has been greatly affected by the external forces the Commonwealth has been facing.

"The economic slump, coupled with inflation, has been crippling to most businesses. To mitigate these risks to our business, we had to find ways to cut costs and trim excesses in our operations."

She then shared the company's secret for success in navigating the local economy's challenging terrain the past 25 years.

"Our organization's core strategy is to adopt a customer-centric approach to business. This has pushed our team to be adaptable, resilient, and innovative—traits which benefited the company's overall health success. Kalayaan Inc. will continue to be a competitive force in CNMI's food service industry, but will also pursue opportunities brought about by technology and other business models."

For instance, Alinas said Kalayaan Inc. has affiliates which are exploring hydroponic and aquaponic farming, construction, and food manufacturing. "Hopefully, this will allow us to increase our business presence in our community."

Aside from the formal presentation of twin commemorative resolutions from the Legislature, employees also formed groups and competed in a mini sportsfest (cheering, tug of war, relay, and volleyball).

A total of six teams—Purple Viper, Black stallion, Blue Knights, Yellow Canary, Orange Tiger, and Red Dragon—took part in the games with Orange Tiger winning the overall championship. Best in Costume went to Blue Knights' Joey Cueto, while Best Muse was Lourdes Loja of Orange Tiger.

Everyone also enjoyed the sumptuous spread offered all day long.

"Kalayaan Inc. team members and guests were treated to food provided by Shirley's Catering. The highlight of the meal service was the live hot station which featured favorite dishes from Max's Restaurant. By late afternoon, La Mesa Restaurant in Garapan offered delicious Filipino-Mexican fusion dishes," said Alinas.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Sawatdee Nuat Thai Massage, LLC
THE POSITION: Masseuse
NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 2
JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: None
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Masseuse.
JOB LOCATION: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

APORNPHAN TAPWAN RODJARUN
Manager
SAWATDEE NUAT THAI MASSAGE, LLC

Office Address: Unit No. 1, Paradise Hotel, Pale Arnold Rd, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 139, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: sawatdeenuathai@gmail.com
Telephone Numbers: (670) 233-8424; (670) 285-8227

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1220 Route 312, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: 7/12/2024 Closing Date: 7/26/2024

POSITION
(1) Audit Manager

EXAMINATION NO.
OPA-24-002

The Application for Employment may be available for download at www.opacnmi.com and available for pick at the Office of the Public Auditor, Building 1220, Route 312, Capitol Hill.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-014	Human Resources (HR) Manager/ Executive Assistant (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00 Per annum	July 23, 2024	August 7, 2024 4:00 PM
2024-017	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	May 24, 2024	Until Filled
2024-019	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	July 10, 2024	Until Filled
2024-021	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $65,000.00 Per annum	July 23, 2024	August 7, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Zenie P. Mafnas
Acting Corporate Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

THE POSITION: CARPENTER

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCT, ERECT, INSTALL, OR REPAIR STRUCTURES AND FIXTURES MADE OF WOOD AND COMPARABLE MATERIALS, SUCH AS CONCRETE FORMS; BUILDING FRAMEWORKS, INCLUDING PARTITIONS, JOISTS, STUDDING, AND RAFTERS; AND WOOD STAIRWAYS, WINDOW AND DOOR FRAMES, AND HARDWOOD FLOORS; CONSTRUCT, ERECT, INSTALL DOORS/FRAMES, CUT OR FABRICATE AND INSTALL FLOORS, WALLS AND ROOFS FIXTURES & CABINETS AND COUNTER TOPS; PERFORMS BOTH ROUGH AND FINISHING CARPENTRY; AND PREPARE MATERIAL LIST NEEDED FOR WORK.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EXPERIENCE: MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWELVE (12) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AS A CARPENTER.

JOB SITE: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HOW TO APPLY: SUBMIT OR MAIL YOUR APPLICATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS TO:

MICHELLE V. RUEDA
COMPTROLLER
RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

OFFICE ADDRESS: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN
SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 504974, SAIPAN, MP 96950

EMAIL ADDRESS: MICHELLE@RNVCONSTRUCTION.COM

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1(670) 235-8778

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: South Pacific Galaxy Corporation

THE POSITION: Accountant

NO. OF VACANCY: 1

JOB SITE: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JOB DESCRIPTION: Review, formulate, recommend, and implement accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company Provides and interprets fundamental financial data and information to management; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Reconcile financial ledgers and records; Prepare the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: (a) Balance Sheet; (b) Statement of Income and Surplus; (c) Statement of cash flows; and (d) Annual Statements; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers and checks propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Supervise and coordinate with bookkeeper and accounting/auditing clerk to ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconcile with the general ledger; Research and resolve discrepancies; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Review and audit all account payables, purchase orders, cash receipts, payrolls, utility billings, and other accounting records and transactions; Ensure money is posted to correct accounts and that all account balance; Provide assistance in the development of budgets for various projects and create a variety of spreadsheets, documents, and graphs for that purpose, if necessary; Perform treasury functions, such as matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; Prepare bank reconciliations and related journal entries for a variety of accounts, including, but not limited to, debt and loan servicing; Prepare a variety of monthly, periodic, and annual financial and statistical reports and account summaries; Prepare year-end closings and accompanying financial reports; Maintain records for audit purposes; Maintain and track fixed assets inventory control records for the company; Participate in year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide responsible assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Analyze financial transactions and formulas; Interpret and apply applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations; Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Examine and verify financial documents and reports; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATIONE: Must be at least a High School Graduate.
WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 60 months of relevant work experience in accounting-related works, such as accountant, or accounting and/or auditing clerk, or Bookkeeper

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:

HAK CHON BAE
President
SOUTH PACIFIC GALAXY CORPORATION
Office Address: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501030, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: spg.corp@yahoo.com
Telephone Number: Tel. (670) 235-1234

Amid tensions with China, some US states are purging Chinese companies from their investments

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—As state treasurer, Vivek Malek pushed Missouri's main retirement system to pull its investments from Chinese companies, making Missouri among the first nationally to do so. Now Malek is touting the Chinese divestment as he seeks reelection in an Aug. 6 Republican primary against challengers who also are denouncing financial connections to China.

The Missouri treasurer's race highlights a new facet of opposition to China, which has been cast as a top threat to the U.S. by many candidates seeking election this year. Indiana and Florida also have restricted their public pension funds from investing in certain Chinese companies. Similar legislation targeting public investments in foreign adversaries was vetoed in Arizona and proposed in Illinois and Oklahoma.

China ranks as the world's second-largest economy behind the U.S.

Between 2018 and 2022, U.S. public pension and university endowments invested about $146 billion in China, according to an analysis by Future Union, a nonprofit prodemocracy group led by venture capitalist Andrew King. The report said more than four-fifths of U.S. states have at least one public pension fund investing in China and Hong Kong,

"Frankly, there should be shame — more shame than there is — for continuing to have those investments at this point in time," said King, who asserts that China has used intellectual property from U.S. companies to make similar products that undercut market prices.

"You're talking a considerable amount of money that frankly is competing against the U.S. technology and innovation ecosystem," King said.

But some investment officials and economists have raised concerns that the emerging patchwork of state divestment policies could weaken investment returns for retirees.

"Most of these policies are unwise and would make U.S. citizens poorer," said Ben Powell, an economics professor who is executive director of the Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University.

The National Association of State Retirement Administrators opposes state-mandated divestments, saying such orders should come only from the federal government against specific companies based on U.S. security or humanitarian interests.

The U.S. Treasury Department recently proposed a rule prohibiting American investors from funding artificial intelligence systems in China that could have military uses, such as weapons targeting. In May, President Joe Biden blocked a Chinese-backed cryptocurrency mining firm from owning land near a Wyoming nuclear missile base, calling it a "national security risk."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) ROUTE 103 AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. RMS-2024-065 – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct road and drainage improvements on Route 103 on the island of Rota. The road construction and drainage improvements consist of hot asphaltic concrete pavement with a friction coarse layer, complete base, and sub-base fill materials. Other work includes drainage improvements to ensure proper water management and reduce risk of flooding, installation of new traffic signs, and pavement markings. The road construction begins east of Rota Resort and Country Club and ends at the asphalt road east of the Rota International Airport.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 5:00PM,** at the Round House Building in Songsong Village, Rota.

Due to limited internet service on Rota, DCRM will not be providing video conferencing at the public hearing venue.

If you are unable to attend in-person, written comments may be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Amy Sanchez at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 or via email at permitting@dcrm.gov.mp if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the proposed DPW Route 103 and Drainage Improvements Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
12860 Atchu St. (House#1352), Capitol Hill
P.O. 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be conducting its Public Hearings on the 2025 Social Services Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan (SSBG IUP) on the following:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	August 5, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Koblerville Youth Center
Tinian	August 7,2024	5:00 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	August 8, 2024	5:00 p.m.	Dept. of Commerce, Conference Room

Electronic copy of the FY2025 SSBG Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan may be viewed on the following sites:

DYS Website: www.dys.gov.mp
GOVERNOR'S Website: www.governor.gov.mp

For more information, or to retrieve a hard copy of the SSBG IUP, you may contact Kevin DLGuerrero or Josephine T. Kapileo at] 670-237-1000/1/2/4 or via email at kdlguerrero@dys.gov.mp or jkapileo@dys.gov.mp.

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Francisco M. Rabauliman
DCCA Secretary

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-014-24

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"REPAIRS OF TYPHOON MAWAR DAMAGES AT THE BTM ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JUNE 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REPAIRS OF TYPHOON DAMAGES AT THE BTM ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (IFB-014-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., JULY 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

AIRLINE STAIRS & AMBULIFT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRSFRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority ("the CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal ("the RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide maintenance, service, and repairs to its airline stairs and ambulift truck at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluate by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning July 12, 2024, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

_____ July 12, 2024
LEO B. TUDELA Date
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-007-24-(REPACKAGED)

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 07, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"PROVIDE & INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO M. BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 08, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "PROVIDE & INSTALL SIX (6) BRAND NEW COMMERCIAL AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS, **(IFB-007-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 07, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nation

Biden delivers solemn call to defend democracy

AP
President Joe Biden pauses before he addresses the nation from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 24, 2024, about his decision to drop his Democratic presidential re-election bid.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Wednesday delivered a solemn call to voters to defend the country's democracy as he laid out in an Oval Office address his decision to drop his bid for reelection and throw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris.

Insisting that "the defense of democracy is more important than any title," Biden used his first public address since his announcement Sunday that he was stepping aside to deliver an implicit repudiation of former President Donald Trump. He did not directly call out Trump, whom he has called an existential threat to democracy. The 10-minute address also gave Biden a chance to try to shape how history will remember his one and only term in office.

"Nothing, nothing can come in the way of saving our democracy," Biden said, in a somber coda to his 50 years spent in public office. "And that includes personal ambition."

It was a moment for the history books—a U.S. president reflecting before the nation on why he was taking the rare step of voluntarily handing off power. It hasn't been done since 1968, when Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek reelection in the heat of the Vietnam War.

» As he lays out his reasons for quitting race

"I revere this office," Biden said. "But I love my country more."

Trump, just an hour earlier at a campaign rally, revived his baseless claims of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election, which he lost to Biden. His refusal to concede inspired the Capitol insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021, which Biden called "the worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War."

Biden skirted the political reality that brought him to that point: His abysmal performance in a debate against Trump nearly a month ago, where he spoke haltingly, appeared ashen and failed to rebut his predecessor's attacks, sparked a crisis of confidence from Democrats. Lawmakers and ordinary voters questioned not just whether he was capable of beating Trump in November, but also whether, at 81, he was still fit for the high-pressure job.

Biden, who said he believed his record was deserving of another term in office, tried to outlast the skepticism and quell the concerns with interviews and tepid rallies, but the pressure to end his campaign only mounted from the party's political elites and from ordinary voters.

"I have decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation," Biden said, saying he wanted to make room for "fresh voices, yes, younger voices."

He added, "That is the best way to unite our nation."

It was a belated fulfillment of his 2020 pledge to be a bridge to a new generation of leaders—and a bow to the drumbeat of calls from within his party to step aside.

Biden's address was carried live by the major broadcast and cable news networks. He spooled out an weighty to-do list for his last six months in office, pledging to remain focused on being president until his term expires at noon on Jan. 20, 2025. He said he would work to end the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, fight to boost government support to cure cancer, address climate change and push for Supreme Court reform.

The president sought to use the address to outline the stakes in the election, which both Biden and Harris have framed as a choice between freedom and chaos, but he tried to steer clear of overt campaigning from his official office.

"The great thing about America is here, kings and dictators do not rule," Biden said. "The people do. History is in your hands. The power is in your hands. The idea of America—lies in your hands."

Biden was also making the case for his legacy of sweeping domestic legislation and the renewal of alliances abroad. But the way history will remember his time in office and his historic decision to step aside is intertwined with Harris' electoral result in November, particularly as the vice president runs tightly on the achievements of the Biden administration.

His advisers say he intends to hold campaign events and fundraisers benefiting Harris, whom Biden praised as "tough" and "capable," albeit at a far slower pace than if he had remained on the ballot himself.

Harris advisers will ultimately have to decide how to deploy the president, whose popularity sagged as voters in both parties questioned his fitness for office.

Biden, aides say, knows that if Harris loses, he'll be criticized for staying in the race too long and not giving her or another Democrat time to effectively mount a campaign against Trump. If she wins, she'll ensure his policy victories are secured and expanded, and he'll be remembered for a Washingtonian decision to step aside for the next generation of leadership.

Harris is starting to vet potential running mates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris is beginning to vet about a dozen possible candidates to be her running mate, according to two people familiar with the matter, as she approaches one of the most consequential decisions of her new presidential candidacy.

Harris launched her campaign Sunday after President Joe Biden bowed to pressure from his own party to step aside, leaving a historically compressed timeline for her to make a selection before next month's Democratic National Convention. Her party could make her its nominee as soon as Aug. 1 in a virtual vote, and could formalize the nomination of her running mate soon after.

Harris' goal, according to people with knowledge of the matter, is to keep the process drama-free, as she and Democrats try to project confidence after an extraordinarily tumultuous few weeks for the party.

While much of the political conversation has centered on four names—Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper—Harris' team has requested information from about a dozen officials, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the confidential process.

The broader list includes Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. At least one of those being vetted is not currently in government.

Initial requests for information went out Tuesday, one of the people said.

Shapiro, who on Tuesday said he had not received any requests for vetting material, was less categorical Wednesday. He referred questions about the process to Harris' campaign team.

Eric Holder, the former U.S. attorney general, and a team of lawyers at his firm Covington & Burling are taking the lead on vetting potential choices. Typically, those under consideration are asked to turn over financial records and records of past political stances and speeches, and they are asked to submit to interviews with lawyers to identify potential red flags.

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung was asked by reporters during a rally on Wednesday whether the former president has said anything about Harris' possible running mate.

"There is a short list of governors and senators. They are all interchangeable," Cheung said. "It doesn't matter."

House votes to form task force to investigate shooting at Trump rally

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Wednesday to form a task force to investigate the security failures surrounding the assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump on July 13.

The vote underscores the bipartisan outrage over the shooting at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Trump came within inches of losing his life. One rallygoer was killed and two others severely injured. Lawmakers have responded quickly with hearings and widespread calls for accountability.

The legislation passed by a vote of 416-0.

"Protecting the safety and security of our nation's leaders is a responsibility that transcends party lines," House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said.

The task force will be composed of 13 members and is expected to include seven Republicans and six Democrats. It will be tasked with determining what went wrong on the day of the attempted assassination and will make recommendations to prevent future security lapses. It will issue a final report before Dec. 13 and has the authority to issue subpoenas.

The bill is sponsored by Republican Rep. Mike Kelly, whose hometown of Butler was the site of the shooting. Kelly was at the rally with his wife and other family members.

"I can tell you that my community is grieving," Kelly said. "They are shocked by what happened in our backyard. The people of Butler and the people of the United States deserve answers."

He said he was concerned when the site of the rally was picked because he thought it would be "a difficult place to have a rally of that size." He called the task force a chance to build trust with Americans that lawmakers can work together to tackle a crisis.

House committees have already held three hearings focusing on the shooting. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned Tuesday, one day after she appeared before a congressional committee and was berated for hours by both Democrats and Republicans for the security failures. She called the attempt on Trump's life the Secret Service's "most significant operational failure" in decades, but she angered lawmakers by failing to answer specific questions about the investigation.

Asia

Taiwan sees flooding, landslides from Gaemi

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan has seen flooding in low-lying areas, along with landslides and damage to homes and shops after Typhoon Gaemi made landfall on the island.

The storm swept up the western Pacific, leaving 22 people dead in the Philippines from flooding and landslides, and three in Taiwan, with more than 220 reported injured.

Offices and schools in Taiwan were closed for the second consecutive day on Thursday and people were urged to stay home and away from the coastline.

The island is regularly hit by typhoons and has boosted its warning systems, but its topography, high population density and high-tech economy make it difficult to avoid losses when such storms hit.

The capital, Taipei, was unusually quiet, with light rain falling and occasionally gusting winds.

In the Philippines, the death toll rose due to drownings and landslides. At least three people are missing, according to police.

The Philippine coast guard reported that an oil tanker, MT Terra Nova, loaded with about 1.4 million liters (370,000 gallons) of industrial fuel oil sank off Limay town in Bataan province early Thursday and rescuers saved 15 of 16 crew members.

» Typhoon caused 22 deaths in the Philippines

It's not immediately clear if the sinking was related to the bad weather and rough seas but Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista said coast guard personnel could not immediately reach the area to contain a possible oil spill because of the rough sea conditions.

The storm prompted the cancellation of air force drills off Taiwan's east coast.

Gaemi, called Carina in the Philippines, did not make landfall in that archipelago but enhanced its seasonal monsoon rains.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered authorities to speed up efforts to deliver food and other aid to isolated rural villages.

"People there may not have eaten for days," Marcos said in a televised emergency meeting.

In the densely populated region around the Philippine capital, government work and school classes were suspended after rains flooded many areas.

The storm's effects were expected to continue into Friday as it moved in a northwestern direction toward mainland China. In Fujian province on China's east coast, ferry routes were suspended on Wednesday and all train service will be halted on Thursday, China's official Xinhua News Agency said.

China, PH announce deal aimed at stopping clashes at disputed South China Sea shoal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China and the Philippines reached a deal they hope will end confrontations at the most fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea, the Philippine government said Sunday.

The Philippines occupies Second Thomas Shoal but China also claims it, and increasingly hostile clashes at sea have sparked fears of larger conflicts that could involve the United States.

The crucial deal was reached Sunday, after a series of meetings between Philippine and Chinese diplomats in Manila and exchanges of diplomatic notes that aimed to establish a mutually acceptable arrangement at the shoal, which Filipinos call Ayungin and the Chinese call Ren'ai Jiao, without conceding either side's territorial claims.

Two Philippine officials, who had knowledge of the negotiations, confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity and the government later issued a brief statement announcing the deal without providing details.

"Both sides continue to recognize the need to deescalate the situation in the South China Sea and manage differences through dialogue and consultation and agree that the agreement will not prejudice each other's positions in the South China Sea," the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced shortly after midnight Sunday that they discussed with the Philippines "managing the situation at Ren'ai Jiao and reached provisional arrangement with the Philippines on humanitarian resupply of living necessities."

Neither side released the text of the agreement.

China has disputes with several governments over land and sea borders, many of them in the South China Sea. The rare deal with the Philippines could spark hope that similar arrangements could be forged by Beijing with other countries to avoid clashes while thorny territorial issues remain unresolved. It remains to be seen, however, if the deal could be implemented successfully and how long it will last.

Chinese coast guard and other forces have used powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel at Manila's outpost at the shoal, on a long-grounded and rusting warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

The yearslong territorial standoff has flared repeatedly since last year.

In the worst confrontation, Chinese forces on motorboats repeatedly rammed and then boarded two Philippine navy boats on June 17 to prevent Filipino personnel from transferring food and other supplies including firearms to the ship outpost in the shallows of the shoal, according to the Philippine government.

The Chinese seized the Philippine navy boats and damaged them with machetes and improvised spears. They also seized seven M4 rifles, which were packed in cases, and other supplies. The violent faceoff wounded several Filipino navy personnel, including one who lost his thumb, in a chaotic skirmish that was captured in video and photos that were later made public by Philippine officials.

China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation and each asserted their own sovereign rights over the shoal.

IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED
Vivian Koyama
Pangelinan-Cruz
A year ago, our dearly beloved mom, grandma, great-grandma, sister, aunt, and sister-friend was called by our Lord to her new home, God's Paradise. Family and friends came from near and far, embraced us with much love, listened, provided moral support, words of consolation, and much kindness to ease our pain during this difficult time. Though our beloved is no longer with us, her love and memories will forever be etched in our hearts and may she rest in peace.
In celebration and remembrance of the anniversary of her new life, we the family respectfully invite our families and friends to join us in the daily mass of intentions to be offered in her memory beginning Friday, July 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. On Sunday, July 28, 2024, mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m. at St. Jude Parish. On the ninth day, Saturday, August 3, 2024, mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish.
Your thoughts, presence, and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.
May God's grace and blessings be upon us now and always.
From the Children and Family

World

AS DEATHS TOP 39,000

Netanyahu signals cease-fire deal could be shaping up

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has signaled that a cease-fire deal that would free dozens of hostages in Gaza could be taking shape. Netanyahu is in Washington, where he is to address Congress.

The Israeli military has ordered the evacuation of part of a crowded area in the Gaza Strip it had designated a humanitarian zone. The Health Ministry in Gaza says over 39,000 Palestinians have been killed in the nine-month war.

Egypt, Qatar and the United States are pushing Israel and Hamas toward a phased deal that would stop the fighting and free remaining hostages. Netanyahu's office has said a negotiating team will be sent to continue talks Thursday.

In China, Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah signed a declaration on forming a unity government and ending a long rift. But previous declarations have failed, including a similar deal in 2011.

Meanwhile, a U.N. children's agency convoy carrying humanitarian workers and children was hit by gunfire while waiting at a designated holding area in the central Gaza Strip, briefly halting their travel but resulting in no injuries, the U.N. says.

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday the U.N. children's agency, known as UNICEF, was unable to determine the origin of the bullets.

He said the two clearly marked UNICEF vehicles were hit earlier Tuesday near the Wadi Gaza checkpoint while en route to reunite five children, including a baby, with their father.

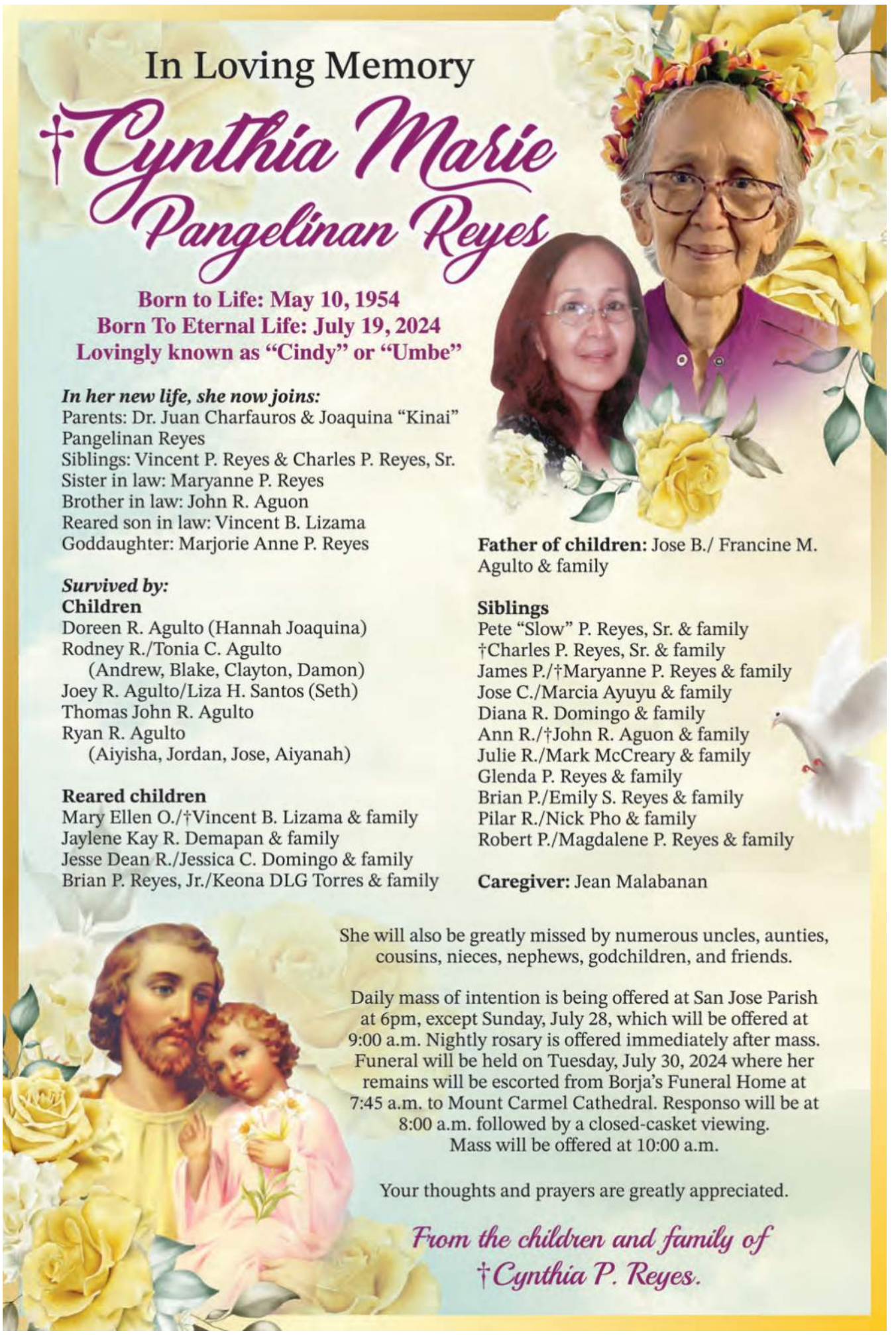
Dujarric said the shooting was the second involving UNICEF vehicles in the past 12 weeks and came just days after a convoy belonging to the U.N. agency helping Palestinians, known as UNRWA, was hit by gunfire from the Israeli side. The U.N. said both the UNRWA shooting and Tuesday's UNICEF shooting took place near the Wadi Gaza checkpoint.

"We strongly reiterate that humanitarian workers are protected under international humanitarian law and must never be targeted," Dujarric told U.N. correspondents.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

On Monday, the Israeli military ordered civilians to evacuate an area in southern Khan Younis it designated a humanitarian zone to facilitate operations against Hamas militants. It said Hamas fighters were launching rockets toward Israel from there. Dujarric said about 150,000 Palestinians were fleeing following the evacuation order and escalation of Israeli military operations.

Earlier this month, Israel estimated at least a million Palestinians were in the humanitarian zone that covered about 14 kilometers (8.6 miles) along the Mediterranean.

Dujarric said parts of the Salah a-Din highway, a main north-south road and a "key route for humanitarian goods," were included in Israel's evacuation order. Humanitarian workers were "forced to reroute many of their essential movements" to a different road that is not a "viable alternative" due to traffic congestion, he said. ***(AP)***

In Loving Memory
†Cynthia Marie
Pangelinan Reyes
Born to Life: May 10, 1954
Born To Eternal Life: July 19, 2024
Lovingly known as "Cindy" or "Umbe"
In her new life, she now joins:
Parents: Dr. Juan Charfauros & Joaquina "Kinai" Pangelinan Reyes
Siblings: Vincent P. Reyes & Charles P. Reyes, Sr.
Sister in law: Maryanne P. Reyes
Brother in law: John R. Aguon
Reared son in law: Vincent B. Lizama
Goddaughter: Marjorie Anne P. Reyes
Father of children: Jose B./ Francine M. Agulto & family
Survived by:
Children
Doreen R. Agulto (Hannah Joaquina)
Rodney R./Tonia C. Agulto (Andrew, Blake, Clayton, Damon)
Joey R. Agulto/Liza H. Santos (Seth)
Thomas John R. Agulto
Ryan R. Agulto (Aiyisha, Jordan, Jose, Aiyanah)
Reared children
Mary Ellen O./†Vincent B. Lizama & family
Jaylene Kay R. Demapan & family
Jesse Dean R./Jessica C. Domingo & family
Brian P. Reyes, Jr./Keona DLG Torres & family
Siblings
Pete "Slow" P. Reyes, Sr. & family
†Charles P. Reyes, Sr. & family
James P./†Maryanne P. Reyes & family
Jose C./Marcia Ayuyu & family
Diana R. Domingo & family
Ann R./†John R. Aguon & family
Julie R./Mark McCreary & family
Glenda P. Reyes & family
Brian P./Emily S. Reyes & family
Pilar R./Nick Pho & family
Robert P./Magdalene P. Reyes & family
Caregiver: Jean Malabanan
She will also be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.
Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Jose Parish at 6pm, except Sunday, July 28, which will be offered at 9:00 a.m. Nightly rosary is offered immediately after mass. Funeral will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 where her remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home at 7:45 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by a closed-casket viewing. Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
From the children and family of
†Cynthia P. Reyes.

Ukraine's foreign minister seeks 'common ground' with China in talks on ending the war with Russia

BEIJING (AP)—Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has said he is seeking "common ground" in talks this week with his Chinese counterpart on ending his country's war with Russia.

Kuleba met Wednesday with Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Guangzhou, a major commercial and manufacturing center in southern China. It is the first visit to the country by a Ukrainian foreign minister since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has strained Ukraine's relations with China.

"I am convinced that a just peace in Ukraine is in China's strategic interests, and China's role as a global force for peace is important," Kuleba said in opening remarks.

China has close ties with Russia and has pushed for an end to the war that would take into account the interests of both sides. That position has put it at odds not only with Ukraine but also Western European countries and the United States, which are demanding a Russian withdrawal as the basis for any settlement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, talking about Kuleba's meeting in an evening video statement, said "there is a clear signal that China supports Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty" and that "it was also confirmed ... that China will not supply weapons to Russia."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement on the meeting quoted Wang saying that four principles previously outlined by Chinese President Xi Jinping provide important guidelines for resolving the crisis.

One of the principles says that "all countries deserve respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity" but another says that "the legitimate security concerns of any party should be taken seriously" — a reference to Russia's opposition to NATO expansion.

China is not believed to be selling arms directly to Russia, but multiple reports say that so-called dual-use goods — which can have military or civilian uses — from China and other countries have wound up in Russian armaments.

Ukrainian soldiers have said Russian soldiers have used Chinese artillery shells, but it is unclear whether Beijing was the source or they were acquired by Russia through a third country.

China did not participate in a peace conference in Switzerland last month that did not include Russia.

Kuleba was expected to lobby Chinese officials to attend another peace conference planned for sometime before the American presidential election in early November. His visit reflects a calculation that any peace deal favorable to Ukraine would likely be a nonstarter without China on board.

Chinese officials maintained that the two countries have friendly and cooperative relations. Noting the growth in trade between them, Wang said in his opening remarks that ties have continued to develop normally "despite complex and ever-changing international and regional situations."

Life & Style

Comic-Con 2024: What to expect as the convention returns to San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Comic-Con International, the comic book and pop culture extravaganza, is kicking off in San Diego. The convention, which draws over 130,000 fans annually, opens for a preview night Wednesday and runs through Sunday.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the Hollywood strikes disrupting past years of the convention either through complete cancellation or modifications to the way they ran, this year will be the most traditional Comic-Con since 2019.

Actors, filmmakers, comic book authors and illustrators and fans are making their way to the San Diego Convention Center and the several official (and unofficial) event locations for a weekend brimming with programming.

Here's what to expect at the sprawling convention.

Marvel mania

With the highly anticipated release of "Deadpool & Wolverine," Marvel is set to be a strong presence, from the costumes fans don to the panels that draw the longest lines. The Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman-led feature is the first and only Disney-backed Marvel movie of the year. The panel promoting the film and celebrating its release Thursday is expected to draw thousands to the convention's famed Hall H.

AP

A robotic creature rolls in front of the convention center on day three of Comic-Con International on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in San Diego.

Marvel is also expected to announce news teasing their upcoming titles in their "Phase 5" cinematic universe plan and beyond, with Marvel president Kevin Feige as the only confirmed speaker on their Saturday panel. He will be joined by special guests, who may include stars of upcoming Marvel titles like "Captain America: Brave New World," "Thunderbolts(asterisk)" and "The Fantastic Four."

Stars assemble

After their absence from the convention last year due to the actors strike, stars are returning to the convention in full force to showcase upcoming series and movies. While the lineup for Marvel's panel will likely remain under wraps until the event starts, several A-listers are confirmed to attend the convention.

Chris Hemsworth, Keegan-Michael Key and Brian Tyree Henry will be speaking on a panel for "Transformers One," the upcoming animated movie with a star-studded cast that also includes Scarlett Johansson, Jon Hamm, Laurence Fishburne and Steve Buscemi.

The cast of the anticipated August release "Alien: Romulus," Cailee Spaeny, Isabela Merced and David Jonsson, will speak on a panel with director and writer Fede Alvarez.

Christian Slater, Lupita Nyong'o and the cast members of "The Boys" and "Abbott Elementary" will also make appearances. And of course, Reynolds and Jackman, who have kept busy promoting "Deadpool & Wolverine," will be there, too.

Beyond the convention

Beyond the convention hall, San Diego will be buzzing with activities, brand activations, parties and events celebrating all things pop culture. Pop and R&B artist Jason Derulo, Japanese singer LiSA and the San Diego Symphony Orchestra are each expected to perform at parties during the weekend.

While several parties and events are invitation-only—including the notable Entertainment Weekly party that draws huge crowds and several celebrities—visitors can keep an eye out for events and pop-ups throughout the city's Gaslamp Quarter. The area surrounding the convention center embraces the spirit of the weekend, with local businesses, restaurants and bars typically rolling out Comic-Con-specific products or menus.

NBA says it has signed new 11-year media rights deal with Disney, NBC and Amazon

The NBA signed its 11-year media rights deal with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video on Wednesday after saying it was not accepting Warner Bros. Discovery's $1.8 billion per year offer to continue its longtime relationship with the league.

The media rights deals were approved by the league's Board of Governors last week and will bring the league about $76 billion over those 11 years.

WBD had five days to match a part of those deals and said it was exercising its right to do so, but its offer was not considered a true match by the NBA. That means the 2024-25 season will be the last for TNT after a nearly four-decade run—though not long after the NBA signing was announced, WBD said it would take "appropriate action" and said it believes the NBA has to accept its offer.

"The digital opportunities with Amazon align perfectly with the global interest in the NBA," Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "And Prime Video's massive subscriber base will dramatically expand our ability to reach our fans in new and innovative ways."

Turner Sports strongly disagreed with the NBA's move, saying it believes the league "grossly misinterpreted our contractual rights."

"We have matched the Amazon offer, as we have a contractual right to do, and do not believe the NBA can reject it," TNT Sports said in a statement. "In doing so, they are rejecting the many fans who continue to show their unwavering support for our best-in-class coverage, delivered through the full combined reach of WBD's video-first distribution platforms. ... We will take appropriate action."

TNT said it continues looking forward to the coming season, "including our iconic 'Inside the NBA.'"

Under the new deal, Amazon Prime Video will carry games on Friday nights, select Saturday afternoons and Thursday night doubleheaders that will begin after the conclusion of Prime Video's "Thursday Night Football" schedule. Prime Video will also take over the NBA League Pass package from WBD.

"Warner Bros. Discovery's most recent proposal did not match the terms of Amazon Prime Video's offer and, therefore, we have entered into a long-term arrangement with Amazon," the league said Wednesday. "Throughout these negotiations, our primary objective has been to maximize the reach and accessibility of our games for our fans. Our new arrangement with Amazon supports this goal by complementing the broadcast, cable and streaming packages that are already part of our new Disney and NBCUniversal arrangements. All three partners have also committed substantial resources to promote the league and enhance the fan experience."

The new package on Amazon also includes at least one game on Black Friday and the quarterfinals, semifinals and championship game of the league's in-season tournament, the NBA Cup.

Mother uses social media to disparage her children

DEAR ABBY: My mother is toxic. She had a terrible childhood, and she takes it out on me and my younger siblings. I live far away; they live in the same town as she does. If they don't drop everything for her and do what she wants, she calls them selfish.

Because I had to leave town to get my life together, I am accused of "abandoning" her. I am called selfish and also accused of not loving her. A couple of months ago, we all blocked her on social media because she berates us constantly. We told her to get a therapist.

Today, my sister sent me screenshots of Mom berating her again on Facebook. In the texts my sister sent, Mom said she got a psychotherapist who says we are all psychotic.

Abby, why wouldn't the therapist see how delusional and toxic my mother is? Why would a therapist feed her delusions? Where do we go from here? Must I block my mom forever and never talk to her again because her therapist won't help her?

INCREDULOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INCREDULOUS: Your mother may have been less than truthful about seeing a therapist. I doubt she has found a licensed mental health professional who would diagnose you and your siblings as suffering from psychosis without having met you. Perhaps the sister who shared the screenshots can tell you what that mental health professional's name is so you can check their credentials.

You left town because you wisely decided to improve your mental health. If you must block your mother and not communicate with her, do not feel guilty for protecting yourself.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 24 years. We make a good living. I earn considerably more than my husband. From the beginning, he has asked me to split everything with him. (He's not the "provider" type.) He views me as a roommate, financially speaking. He was used to having his parents bail him out of financial situations.

I am tired of being the provider. I pay half the mortgage and far more on other expenses. I also do all the cleaning, laundry, cooking and dishes, and I've been picking up after him for 24 years. I have a full-time, highly stressful job and come home from work with chores to do. He works from home and takes naps and siestas during the afternoon.

He brings nothing to the marriage beyond paying his half of the bills. I am no longer physically attracted to him. You can't blame me. Most women are not attracted to men who cannot provide. We have one child. I can't breathe and would rather die young than grow old in this hopeless, depressing arrangement. I just need validation that I shouldn't be putting up with this.

PROVIDER IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR PROVIDER: I don't know how many other women would tolerate the kind of marriage you have described, but many do. You are entitled to your feelings, but before doing anything rash, it's important that you discuss this with an attorney who specializes in family law. According to the law in the community property golden state of California, your husband could wind up with half of your hard-earned assets.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

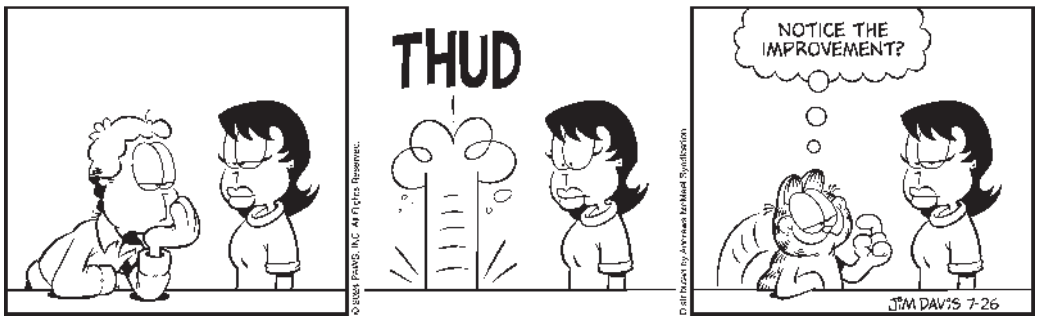
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

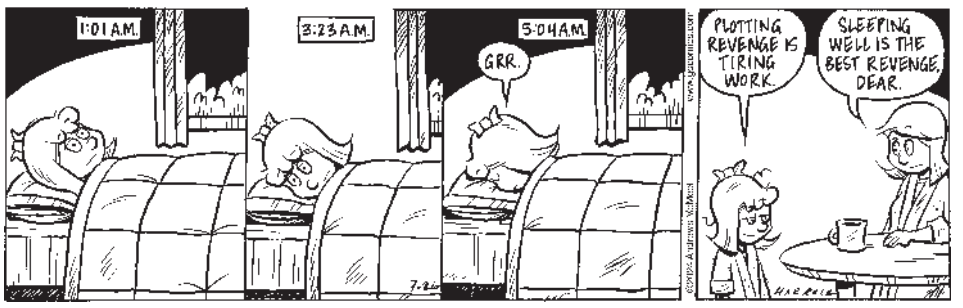
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



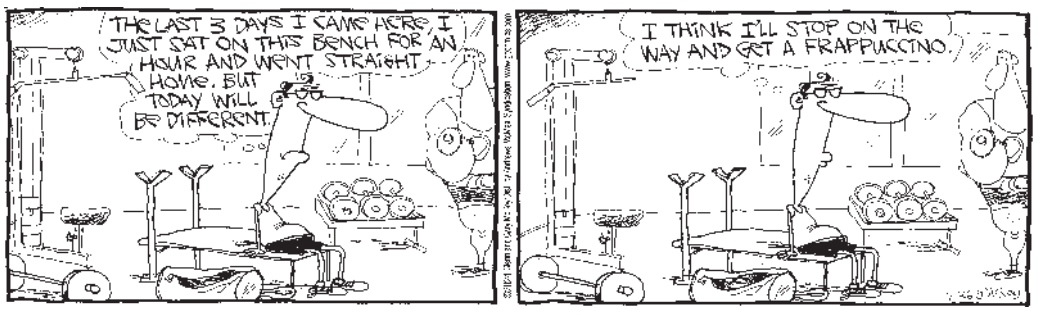
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE LAST 3 DAYS I CAME HERE, I JUST SAT ON THIS BENCH FOR AN HOUR AND WENT STRAIGHT HOME. BUT TODAY WILL BE DIFFERENT.
I THINK I'LL STOP ON THE WAY AND GET A FRAPPUCCINO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

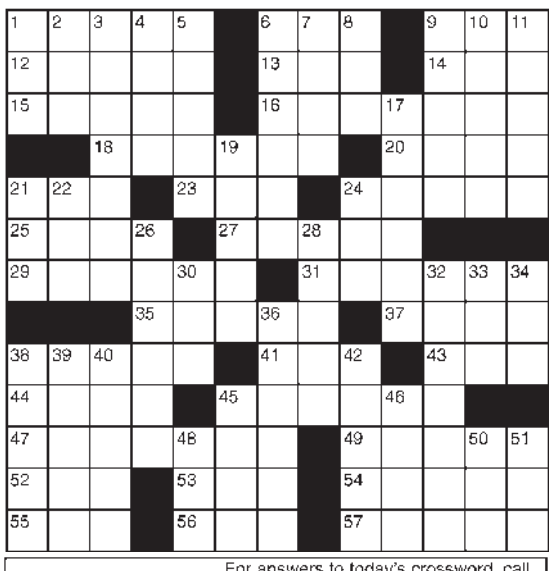
ACROSS
1 Unlocks
6 City on the Danube
9 Bracketed word
12 Macho types
13 JFK Library architect
14 Big fuss
15 Mozart work
16 Danish cheese
18 Scoundrels
20 James of "The Godfather"
21 Muumuu accessory
23 Cardinal cap letters
24 Karaoke selections
25 Diner orders
27 Milk dispenser
29 Deli tool
31 Break a promise
35 Sleep problem
37 Trudge
38 "Becoming" memoirist
41 "Today" rival, briefly
43 Cattle call
44 Enlist again
45 Andre of tennis
47 Corpus —
49 Must
52 Motorist's org.
53 Longing
54 Rocker John
55 Many coll. applicants
56 MBA or Ph.D
57 Parisian river

DOWN
1 Sound of surprise
2 Vigor
3 Retired professors
4 Octavia's spouse
5 Legging woes
6 Supported
7 Meadows
8 Roman 1004
9 Clear wrap
10 Luggage attachment
11 Change
17 Squirrel's stash
19 One-eighty
21 Scale abbr.
22 Right angle
24 "Didn't I tell you?
26 Shrimp recipe
28 Pulitzer category
30 Ecol. watchdog
32 Volcano of Peru
33 Sticky stuff
34 Swelled head
36 Urging (on)
38 Killer whales
39 Comedian/TV host Joy
40 Radiant glows
42 Campfire leftovers
45 Suit to —
46 Boutique event
48 Pink Floyd's Barrett
50 Heavy weight
51 Small bill

Solution time: 25 mins.

V	A	S	I		C	A	B		A	C	I	S
A	L	A	S		I	O	O		S	H	E	A
N	O	N	C		E	L	O		H	E	L	M
S	E	E	T	H	E		M	O	R	E	L	S
			S	I	H			O	A	K		
M	I	C	F		I	N	C	O	M	I	N	G
I	S	H			O	O	H			I	I	P
C	R	E	V	A	S	S	E		M	Y	N	A
		E	I	N			E	G	O			
C	U	T	S	E	T		S	O	A	R	E	D
D	R	A	T		E	M	I		N	O	P	E
C	S	I	A		H	O	L		L	D	L	N
M	A	S	S		M	A	H		D	E	E	S

Yesterday's answer 7-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bianca Santos, 34; Kate Beckinsale, 51; Sandra Bullock, 60; Helen Mirren, 79.

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination flow and your emotions flourish this year. Look for creative outlets that enhance your life and initiate new friendships. Exploring exciting possibilities and planning an educational extravaganza or journey will broaden your perspective regarding life, love and what's meaningful to you. Avoid complaining when you can progress by making a difference with positive acts, kindness and consideration. Choose peace and love over discord and chaos. Your numbers are 3, 18, 23, 29, 36, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Plan something entertaining or do something to boost your morale or enhance your appearance or love life. Challenge yourself to be and do your best, and gain perspective through experience and knowledge. Don't waste time; embrace every moment and whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Hide your feelings until you know where you fit in and how to choose the right words to make yourself heard and understood by those you want to impress or influence. If you act in haste, it will be difficult to backtrack and reach your objective. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Charge into the future with enthusiasm, not anger. Energize others with a positive attitude and optimism. Listen to reason, adjust where necessary and don't fear getting your hands dirty to reach your objective. Actions speak louder than words, and novel motions will gain respect. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your imagination, and implement discipline and common sense to ensure you develop a winning combination that fits your budget and allows you to use your expertise to control whatever situation you encounter. Lowering your voice and praising others will open a window of opportunity. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Offer to help, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Consider where your skills and experience will make the most impact. Plan an outing that encourages meeting people of interest or offers insight into how you can make a difference in your community. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Slow down, smell the roses, think, reflect and consider the outcome of your words or actions. Look for opportunities to upgrade, learn something new and enhance marketability. Hone your skills, incorporate discipline and reset your goals. Learn from the experience and examine the potential fallout first. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Let your insight, kindness and intellect carry their weight in social settings. Refrain from letting anyone bait you into an argument; instead, allow everyone to have opinions and preferences. Be the better person. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take pride in how you present yourself. Be true to yourself, speak from the heart and be kind. The gestures you make will set the tone for what's to come. A pleasant, entertaining demeanor will stifle negativity and encourage a positive response. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Misinformation, trust and indecisiveness weigh heavily on your decisions. Don't feel bad for making others wait if it helps you avoid a terrible mistake. Choose your words wisely and let your instincts direct your actions. Look for positive opportunities. Personal growth is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may crave change, but check your motives before you initiate your next move. Don't allow your emotions to dictate or encourage you to ignore the truth. Call an expert for sound advice before engaging in a joint venture. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Choose to revamp your lifestyle, or remodel or construct a space that encourages you to explore projects you enjoy most. Set high standards regarding personal contacts and surround yourself with people who enhance your life instead of those holding you back. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Know not to make a move when uncertainty prevails. Sit tight, regardless of what others do and observe. There are lessons to learn, and taking time will lower stress while you figure out what and who is important to you. Discipline conquers defeat. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, astute and ambitious. You are precise and benevolent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		4					6	
				5		9		
	5					8		2
	8		5	7				4
	3					6		8
1	2		6			3		
	9	2		1	5			
3					4	2	5	
		8	2					3

Difficulty: ★★★★ 7/26

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	1	9	7	5	8	4	2
2	4	7	3	8	6	1	9	5
9	8	5	1	4	2	7	6	3
6	9	4	5	3	8	2	1	7
5	2	3	4	1	7	9	8	6
7	1	8	2	6	9	5	3	4
1	3	9	7	2	4	6	5	8
8	5	2	6	9	3	4	7	1
4	7	6	8	5	1	3	2	9

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/25

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SMARTPHONE ZOMBIES Solution: 4 letters

A	P	P	S	P	T	G	N	I	S	S	O	R	C	T
R	C	P	L	U	H	O	U	S	E	R	E	U	R	E
E	A	U	S	C	C	J	T	A	L	K	P	E	E	C
M	G	B	R	C	O	O	E	I	A	D	L	C	R	N
A	T	A	U	B	R	R	F	E	A	A	I	I	N	E
C	E	X	S	S	O	E	P	T	I	T	N	T	O	S
S	A	F	E	T	Y	S	E	D	O	G	A	O	I	E
K	T	L	S	T	T	N	E	N	N	B	I	B	T	R
L	T	A	L	R	R	M	D	O	L	D	R	S	C	P
A	E	N	E	E	L	E	I	E	A	A	T	E	A	I
W	N	E	T	A	V	S	T	T	I	O	S	S	R	C
E	T	N	I	I	I	S	A	N	P	R	E	S	T	T
D	I	C	C	V	L	A	T	I	G	I	D	I	S	U
I	O	E	E	M	A	G	L	I	A	M	E	O	I	R
S	N	A	W	A	R	E	O	T	O	H	P	N	D	E

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 7/26

Alert, Apps, Attention, Aware, Brain, Busy, Call, Camera, Crossing, Curb, Data, Device, Digital, Distraction, Email, Focus, Game, House, Internet, Jobs, Lane, Maps, Message, Notice, Obsession, Pedestrian, Photo, Picture, Plug, Presence, Ring, Road, Safety, Screen, Search, Sidewalk, Social Media, Speaker, Store, Street, Tablet, Talk, Text, Update, Vision

Yesterday's Answer: Narrative

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION** #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Victor Wembanyama returns home for 2024 Olympics

PARIS (AP)—Sports often are a secondary attraction in Paris, with athletes having a difficult time standing out in a cultural sphere driven largely by food, fashion and the arts.

Victor Wembanyama may use the Paris Olympics to be the first homegrown sports star to dismantle that dynamic.

The 7-foot-4 French-born phenom made San Antonio Spurs NBA games appointment viewing as a rookie in the league this past season, boosting his already swelling global brand. Now the 20-year-old is returning home for the Paris Games as by far the biggest name in his country's Olympic delegation.

Wembanyama literally will be a center of attention this month, and not just because of what he can do on the court, but because he's become a central figure with the charisma to draw in both ardent sports fans and casual French citizens alike.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 draft pick, greets fans before an NBA basketball press conference, Saturday, June 24, 2023, at the AT&T Center in San Antonio.

"I tend to underestimate the fan enthusiasm for me. I don't pay more attention to it than that," Wembanyama said recently. "But when I returned to France a few weeks ago for the first time, I felt the enthusiasm of the public that was different from before."

The arrival of "Wemby" in the NBA, the world' most premier basketball league, had been anticipated for years as his reputation and skill set stood out while he came up through the ranks of French basketball.

It was not unlike the rise of 25-year-old French soccer star Kylian Mbappé, who at just 18 helped lead France to a World Cup title in 2018 and another World Cup final in 2022 while simultaneously taking his place as one of club soccer's top players.

But after month's announcements that Mbappé had officially left local Paris Saint-Germain to join La Liga power Real Madrid, followed by news that he won't be competing for the host country in the Olympics , it's put even more focus on Wembanyama, who said he's always held the Olympic stage in high regard.

"I have been preparing for them since the first time I saw the Olympics on TV," Wembanyama said. "It was always a dream and then as we grew up it became a goal. It's definitely something that's really unique in sport. I think it's the most important sporting event in the world."

Wembanyama will miss the much-anticipated Friday's Opening Ceremony because of scheduling concerns with France opening basketball group play the next day in Lille, an hour-plus train ride away.

And rest will be important with Wembanyama being central to France's hopes of being one of the top contenders to end the United States' streak of four straight gold medals in basketball.

In an interesting coincidence, that same U.S. team, with a roster of players who he competed against as an NBA rookie, is slated to have a few practices on Wemby's childhood home court in Levallois-Perret in Paris' western suburbs.

It's another small reminder of how far Wemby's imprint in these Paris Games extends.

Benjamin Moubèche, a correspondent for France-based REVERSE who moved to San Antonio to report on Wembanyama's NBA arrival, said while he is still competing for attention with well-known French athletes like judo star Teddy Riner or emerging talents like Léon Marchand in swimming, "no athlete resonates with all generations quite like Victor Wembanyama."

"Wemby appeals to both young people, who are increasingly interested in the NBA, and older generations, who are fascinated by his unique physique and excited to see a Frenchman excel in a sport where France has not been historically dominant," Moubèche said.

But what's also made Wembanyama's overall ascension different from other French sports stars has been his simultaneous appreciation for the cultural metropolis he grew up in.

In the aftermath of winning NBA Rookie of the Year honors as a member of the Spurs, one of the first thing items on his agenda was to model for French luxury brand Louis Vuitton while serving as one of its ambassadors during a Vogue show at Paris Fashion Week last month.

"I felt a lot more pressure, but positive pressure, at the time of my first match with Spurs than during the Vogue fashion show on Place Vendome," he said. "Of course I enjoy participating in extra-sports events like that, but it's not a euphoric pleasure like basketball. Basketball is really my passion. It's what I live for."

Whatever this next month does for his personal status, Wembanyama says success on the court is what continues to drive him.

"I don't read the news about me, I don't hang out on social networks," he said. "The enthusiasm around me is not something that bothers me at all. Just trying to take the positive out of it. It's something I would like to enjoy after winning titles."

Source: Thibodeau agrees to 3-year extension with Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Thibodeau has agreed to a three-year contract extension after leading the New York Knicks to three postseason appearances in his four seasons, a person with knowledge of the details said Wednesday.

The Knicks have made back-to-back trips to the Eastern Conference semifinals and rewarded Thibodeau for turning around what had been one of the worst teams in the league before his arrival.

Thibodeau had one year remaining on his contract before the extension, which was first reported by ESPN and confirmed to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it had not been announced.

Thibodeau has twice been voted NBA Coach of the Year, including in 2020-21 after leading the Knicks to the playoffs in his first season. They went 50-32 last season, their best record since winning 54 games in 2012-13, and fell one game shy of reaching the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2000.

A Knicks fan growing up in Connecticut who later served as an assistant coach with the team, Thibodeau returned to the franchise in 2020 after the Knicks had missed the playoffs for seven straight seasons.

He promptly led them to a 41-31 record in his first season and has gone 175-143 in his four seasons, placing him fifth on the franchise list for coaching victories.

The Knicks had already agreed to a contract extension with All-Star guard Jalen Brunson during this offseason, traded for Mikal Bridges and re-signed OG Anunoby, and the extension for Thibodeau was expected to follow.

Known for his demanding style and strong defensive teams, Thibodeau guided the Knicks through a number of injuries to earn the No. 2 seed in the East last season. They could be one of the top challengers to the NBA champion Boston Celtics in the East in 2024-25.

Thibodeau was also voted the NBA's top coach in 2011 as a first-time head coach with the Chicago Bulls, after his first of three 50-win seasons in Chicago. Thibodeau also led Minnesota to the playoffs in 2018 and is 527-389 in his 12 seasons.

Thibodeau was an assistant coach with the Boston Celtics when they won the 2008 NBA title and with the U.S. Olympic team when it won a gold medal in 2016.

NBA BRIEFS

Pacers agree to 3-year, $59M deal with Andrew Nembhard, AP source says

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Andrew Nembhard and the Indiana Pacers have agreed to a three-year contract worth $59 million, a person with knowledge of the details said Wednesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced. Nembhard started 47 games in his second NBA season, most playing alongside All-Star guard Tyrese Haliburton. Nembhard averaged 9.2 points and was second on the team with 4.1 assists. Indiana has locked up its starting backcourt for at least three more seasons and is the latest move by team officials to keep the core of its Eastern Conference runner-up together. Earlier this offseason, the Pacers also re-signed forward Obi Toppin a new contract.

Hawks rookie Djurisic sidelined until at least November following surgery on left foot

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta Hawks rookie guard/forward Nikola Djurisic of Serbia has had surgery on his left foot and is out until at least November. Djurisic fractured his left foot during a summer league game on July 14 and had surgery to repair his left fifth metatarsal bone. The surgery was performed on Monday by Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Hawks disclosed the surgery on Wednesday and said Djurisic's status will be updated in November. The Hawks traded AJ Griffin to Houston to acquire the rights to Djurisic, who was drafted in the second round. The Hawks made French teen Zaccharie Risacher, a 6-foot-9 wing, the No. 1 overall pick.

Atlanta also traded high-scoring guard Dejounte Murray to New Orleans for a package of two first-round draft picks and three veterans, and could make other moves this offseason.

Bucks sign former Toronto Raptors guard Gary Trent Jr.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Gary Trent Jr. has left the Toronto Raptors to join the Milwaukee Bucks' backcourt. The Bucks announced the signing of the 6-foot-5 guard on Saturday. Trent averaged 13.7 points, 2.6 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 71 games with the Raptors last season. He shot 42.6% from the floor and 39.3% from 3-point range. In 20 games after the All-Star break, Trent averaged 19.1 points. Trent has career averages of 14.3 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.5 assists with the Portland Trail Blazers (2018-21) and Raptors (2021-24). This move reunites Trent with former Trail Blazers teammate Damian Lillard. The addition of Trent represents the latest signing for the Bucks, who also added 6-6 forward Taurean Prince and 6-5 guard Delon Wright. Prince spent last season with the Los Angeles Lakers, while Wright was with the Washington Wizards and Miami Heat.

Perez works 6 scoreless innings as Pirates top Cardinals

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Martin Perez pitched six scoreless innings, Rowdy Tellez homered into the Allegheny River and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat St. Louis 5-0 on Wednesday to take two of three games from the Cardinals.

Perez (2-5) allowed four hits, three in his final two innings, and walked five with two strikeouts. The 33-year-old left-hander entered with a 5.61 ERA after allowing 11 runs in 8 1/3 innings over his last two starts.

"I got confidence," Perez said. "It doesn't matter. Every outing I'm always going to trust my stuff. That happened today. I was able to compete and throw a lot of pitches in the strike zone."

Tellez chased Matthew Liberatore (2-3) at the start of the fourth inning by sending a fastball 447 feet into the river beyond the wall in right field, extending the Pirates' lead to five runs.

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Rowdy Tellez, right, is greeted by third base coach Mike Rabelo as he rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

TWINS 5, PHILLIES 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Max Kepler's infield single drove in the winning run with one out in the ninth inning, giving Minnesota a series-clinching win over Philadelphia.

Trevor Larnach was hit by a pitch by Philadelphia left-hander Gregory Soto (2-4) to open the bottom of the ninth. Larnach advanced to second on a wild pitch and moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Austin Martin. Kepler hit a two-hopper up the middle against a drawn in infield that was backhanded by diving second baseman Bryson Stott, who had no chance to get Larnach at home or Kepler at first.

The Twins claimed their fifth walk-off victory of the season. The National League-leading Phillies (64-38) lost their third straight series.

Minnesota closer Jhoan Duran (6-5) worked a perfect ninth against Kyle Schwarber, Trea Turner and Bryce Harper to earn the win.

BREWERS 3, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—William Contreras hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning and Milwaukee beat the Chicago Cubs.

Blake Perkins singled leading off the ninth against H√©ctor Neris (8-3). Contreras put Milwaukee on top one out later when he lined a double to left-center, helping the NL Central leaders end a rough day on a winning note.

Before the game, the Brewers placed Christian Yelich on the 10-day injured list because of inflammation in his lower back and they were bracing for the possibility that their All-Star outfielder misses significant time.

Milwaukee reliever Bryse Wilson entered in the second and held Chicago to one run over four innings. Jakob Junis (3-0) then pitched one-hit ball for three innings before Joel Payamps worked the ninth for his fifth save.

Jackson Chourio and Brice Turang each singled in a run, and the Brewers pulled out the win despite stranding 10 runners.

ROCKIES 20, RED SOX 7

DENVER (AP)—Brenton Doyle hit a grand slam, one of four home runs by Colorado, and the Rockies tied a franchise record for runs in a victory over Boston.

Ezequiel Tovar homered and singled twice, extended his hitting streak to 11 games with his homer. Jacob Stallings also homered, Brendan Rodgers had four hits and Kris Bryant singled three times for the Rockies.

Cal Quantrill (7-7) tossed six solid innings as Colorado took two of three from the scuffling Red Sox. Boston has lost five of its first six to begin the second half of the season.

The Red Sox used four relievers to get through seven innings and infielder Dominic Smith pitched the eighth. He threw a clean inning on eight pitches.

ASTROS 8, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Hunter Brown had eight strikeouts in six innings to remain one of the hottest pitchers in baseball, helping Houston beat Oakland.

Chas McCormick homered for the first time in more than a month and Jose Altuve had three hits and two RBIs as the Astros bounced back to win the last game of the series after losing the first two in likely their final regular-season trip to the Coliseum.

The game was played before 14,978 fans, the third-largest crowd at the Coliseum this season.

Seth Brown had three hits for the A's. Oakland had won five of six.

ANGELS 2, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Brandon Drury drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Angels completed a three-game sweep of struggling Seattle.

The Mariners were booed by fans after losing for the eighth time in nine game and for the 20th time in 29 games, slipping to 53-51 overall. Despite its extended troubles, Seattle is a game behind first-place Houston (53-49) in the AL West.

Angels pitching held the Mariners to one run in all three games of the series.

Mariners starter Luis Castillo worked six shutout innings before the Angels finally scored against the Seattle bullpen. Nolan Schanuel led off the eighth with a single against reliever Gregory Santos and later scored on a two-out single by Willie Calhoun, knotting the score at 1-all.

REDS 9, BRAVES 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Spencer Steer drove in three runs with three extra-base hits, Elly De La Cruz also had three hits, including a home run, and Cincinnati beat slumping Atlanta.

The second game of a scheduled split doubleheader was postponed due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for Sept. 9.

Steer drove in a run with a first-inning triple off Allan Winans (0-2) and had a two-run double in the fourth. Steer added another double and scored two runs. Jake Fraley also had three hits, including a two-run homer in the first.

Winans gave up seven runs in only 2 2/3 innings in the Braves' fourth consecutive loss. The Braves may look to boost their depleted rotation before the July 30 trade deadline.

GUARDIANS 2, TIGERS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Josh Naylor singled with two outs in the eighth inning, scoring younger brother Bo Naylor with the go-ahead run, as AL Central-leading Cleveland edged Detroit.

Bo Naylor drew a walk against Beau Brieske (1-1), then stole second base. Following an intentional walk to Jos√© Ram√≠rez, Josh Naylor lined a ball up the middle that second baseman Colt Keith could only deflect into center field.

Hunter Gaddis (4-2) struck out all three batters in the eighth, and Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his AL-high 31st save to complete a combined two-hitter.

Guardians ace Tanner Bibee left after five innings with leg cramps. The right-hander winced while walking onto the field to begin the sixth and spent several minutes stretching his legs, to no avail.

MARLINS 6, ORIOLES 3

MIAMI (AP)—Jazz Chisholm Jr. broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run double and Miami beat Baltimore.

Xavier Edwards reached on a leadoff single against reliever Jacob Webb (1-5) in the seventh, and Cionel Perez walked Nick Gordon. Ali Sanchez's sacrifice bunt advanced both runners before Chisholm hit a high bouncer over third baseman Ramon Urias for a 5-3 lead.

Bryan De La Cruz capped the three-run inning with an RBI single.

Josh Bell homered and Edwards had three hits and a walk for the NL-worst Marlins (37-65), who have won four of six since the All-Star break - including the first two in a three-game series against the AL East-leading Orioles (60-41).

PADRES 12, NATIONALS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jurickson Profar homered for the second consecutive game, Kyle Higashioka also went deep, and San Diego beat Washington.

Jackson Merrill came within a home run of hitting for the cycle and matched a career high with four hits for San Diego, which has won four in a row. Xander Bogaerts had a season-high four hits as the Padres finished with a season-high 20.

It was the Padres' highest scoring total since a 13-1 win against Arizona on June 8.

Juan Yepez homered to extend his hitting streak to 15 games for Washington, which is 0-5 against the Padres this season. It was the most runs allowed by the Nationals since a 12-3 loss to Philadelphia last Aug. 19.

BLUE JAYS 6, RAYS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Justin Turner hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered for the fifth time in six games, and Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

Turner went 3 for 4 with three singles. His line drive hit off right-hander Jason Adam (4-2) in the eighth scored George Springer from second base and sparked a four-run rally.

Daulton Varsho followed with an RBI single, and Turner scored on a passed ball by catcher Ben Rortvedt.

Alejandro Kirk followed with a high pop up but the ball hit off the glove of Rays shortstop Taylor Walls and dropped for an error, allowing Varsho to score.

METS 12, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso, Francisco Lindor and Tyrone Taylor homered off Gerrit Cole, Lindor added a three-run shot against the bullpen and the New York Mets routed the Yankees to sweep the season Subway Series for the first time since 2013.

Lindor hit a two-run drive left-handed against Cole and connected right-handed off Caleb Ferguson for a season-high five RBIs and his 18th multi-homer game, his third this year. Lindor has 21 homers and 60 RBIs.

Mark Vientos went deep against Tim Hill in a five-run eighth as the Yankees allowed four or more homers for the third time in five games.

RANGERS 10, WHITE SOX 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Adolis Garcia snapped out of a long slump with three hits while accounting for the tying and go-ahead runs, Nathan Eovaldi struck out 10 without any walks in seven innings and Texas beat the Chicago White Sox for their fourth win in a row.

Corey Seager had a solo homer among his four hits for the reigning World Series champion Rangers (50-52), who have won 11 of 15 to move within three games of AL West-leading Houston. Robbie Grossman and Nathaniel Lowe also went deep, while Josh Smith added an RBI single and sacrifice fly.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, ROYALS 6

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Gabriel Moreno gave Arizona the lead in the ninth inning with a two-run double, Ketel Marte added a three-run homer and the Diamondbacks beat Kansas City.

Eugenio Saurez homered for Arizona in the second and Joc Pederson and Christian Walker hit back-to-back shots in the fourth to make it 3-1. Pederson has 200 career homers.

With Arizona down 4-3 in the ninth against closer James McArthur (4-4), Lourdes Gurriel Jr singled with one out, Geraldo Perdomo walked and Moreno slashed the double that rolled to the wall in the right-center gap. After Corbin Carroll's single, Marte blasted the three-run homer to center. The All-Star homered in all three games in the series.

GIANTS 8, DODGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robbie Ray pitched five hitless innings in his San Francisco debut, Matt Chapman homered and the Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Giants held the Dodgers without a hit until Chris Taylor doubled to right off reliever Tyler Rogers with two outs in the seventh inning.

Ray (1-0) had his first outing since Tommy John surgery in May 2023. He was electric after the first inning, allowing just one earned run on a bases-loaded walk. He struck out eight and was taken out after 86 pitches.

Krishnan conquers field in July tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Das Krishnan remained cool and collected amidst the scorching hot weather enroute to winning the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's July tournament held last July 22 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

The 69-year-old banquet manager at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan shot a net score of 72 after dropping twin 41s in the front and back nine for a gross score of 82.

The 10-handicapper said he was just trying to survive last Sunday due to the less-than-ideal conditions during the July tourney.

Krishnan

"The weather was hot and windy and the course was well maintained but the green unpredictable with different grass."

He said his best hole was the par-4 No. 13 par where his second shot using a 5-iron on the green made birdie.

"It just blew my mind and it was awesome!"

As for his worst hole, Krishnan said it was No. 17. "My drive from the tee box was bad and went into the sand bunker. I then hit a bad shot from the bunker and had to two-putt for double bogey. It hurt me trying to hold the fort."

He then dedicated his July tourney win to his loving wife Alice Law. "Because she has no questions whenever I go golfing on the weekend. She just supports me 99%."

Joining Krishnan in the Top 3 were Ronnie Santos with his net 72, but lost to Krishnan on a scorecard tiebreak, and Dan Ganacias, who beat Adony Matutino on another scorecard tiebreak, with his net 73.

A total of 13 Fil-Taga members took part in the July tourney and they are as follows, with their net scores in parenthesis: Freddie Cataluna (74), Ed Varias (76), Ruben Avendano (77), Romy Cayetano (78), Mike Cruz (79), Jess Yumul (80), Antonio Tabnornil (81), Jhun Cayetano (82), and Felix Ano (gross 107)

In the par 3 competition, Santos, Matutino, and Yumul took the plum, with no takers on hole No. 11.

GUAM

From page 24

takes on Mongolia again, while on the last day of the tourney on Sunday, NMI wraps it up with a final matchup against Guam.

In an interview with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta, he said that this tourney, coupled with the previous friendly matches/training camps with other FAs around the world is a great boost for sports tourism in the CNMI, and a great opportunity for the association, the players, and the community.

"It's a lot of hard work but it's exciting for us because this is the first time that we're hosting an actual tournament with more than two teams. Usually, it's just Guam and the NMI," he said. "We don't have a lot of tourists but because of sports, there's a lot now. There were even back-to-back badminton tourneys and last week's soccer training camp. So it's good."

For the NMI's performance and how this experience will help develop the players and the program, Zapanta said, "It helps a lot because when you are just competing against the same old players, some of them think they are very good players. They have no way of comparing their skills against international competition. They only go to sanctioned tournaments like once or twice a year, so it's very hard for them to compete. But with this experience, they gain more skills, they become more confident. And now, we could compete with Guam, we could compete with Mongolia, and after this, we're having the Marianas Cup against Guam on Aug. 3 and 4."

In the future, he said, since there's now two full-sized pitches, they are looking forward to hosting more tournaments.

NO

From page 24

one point. I had to dig down deep and keep pushing to not let his pressure get to me and cause me to make a mistake. If I did, he would have gotten the pass and most likely the win. I had a great time battling with him it was definitely exciting and I enjoyed the grind," said Shane on winning the July Expert Class.

Overall, the 30-year-old Financial & Insurance Services Group staff said once again it was a great race all around.

"Each and every class was exciting to watch because it was really muddy and slippery in the first heat which made it anyone's game as a lot of people were sliding out and going down. It got a little drier right before my race although there was still a lot of mushy and slick areas."

He then went on to thank the MRA and IT&E for sponsoring and hosting the race and keeping motocross hobbyists active and giving them the opportunity to showcase their skills and do what they love.

"I'd like to thank my sponsors Trench Tech, 4evercnmi, Cycles Plus Guam, and of course my parents and my friends and family that support me on and off the track. We have two more races in August to complete our series, then it's training to defend our title against Guam once again this November for TurkeyCross!" he said.

Cuki, meanwhile, mirrored his son by also topping both races in the Veterans Class for 50 points. Champi Villacanes was second with his 44 points, while Charles Cepeda was third with 38 points.

"Always a good time mixing it up with the old boys! We all may be 'past our prime' but we still think we're fast! Yesterday was a muddy race in Heat 1. The rain gave us a little break in Heat 2 and the track conditions were perfect! We call those perfect conditions 'tacky' becuse it isn't slippery or dusty! So, it ended up being a great day of racing," said the patriarch of Trench Tech Racing.

As for making hay while the rain shines in the Veterans Class and no longer competing against Shane in the Expert Class, Cuki joked that now he's actually much more relaxed and less stressed.

"I don't have to push my limits in order to 'challenge' him now. I go to the races and enjoy it a lot more. Can I competitively race against him? Yes, but he's the younger lion now and I feel it's time to step down. Or should I say, time to be ousted! We still practice together on off weekends and I still teach him some tricks," he said.

Shane, for his part, said he wishes the head of the Alvarez familia was still racing in the Expert Class.

"I wish my dad was still racing in the Expert Class. It would be fun to battle with him again every race day as he always brings out my best every time. Especially when Guam comes over it's a big help to have him racing in the class too if we're both up front it'll be harder for them to pass or get the win. Thankfully, Corry is really fast and on a good day can definitely give me a run for my money," he said.

ISLANDER

From page 24

markers for Islander Rent A Car at 17, while Gontar and Mejarito mirrored each other at 13 points.

For Savemore, Foronda and Lauron both put up twin 20 points and carried the team on their shoulders, while Mark Malinay scored nine and Kristian David put up seven.

In GMP x Yuman's game that morning, they deconstructed Jacob's Bakeshop, 91-73. In other results, Star Water drowned Saipan Tigers, 70-65, and Team Underground crushed Triskelion, 81-73.

In the standings behind Yuman and Islander Rent A Car are Savemore, Team Underground, and Star Water at 2-2 each. Saipan Tigers and Jacob's Bakeshop have a 1-3 record, while Triskelion have yet to win at four losses.

Meanwhile, in the concurrent Destroyers Friendly Games League 2024 also played at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium, Vizion Insurance and Bio Pro will go head-to-head in the finals this Sunday, July 28, at 5pm.

Islander Rent A Car 70 – Ferrer 17, Gontar 13, Mejarito 13, Santiago 6, Directo 4, Velasco 4, Dinglasan 4, Yanto 3, Villocero 2, Agustin 2, Broncano 2.

Savemore 68 – Foronda 20, Lauron 20, Malinay 9, David 7, Natividad 5, Jandoc 4, Lucero 3.

Scoring by halves: 40-32, 70-68.

Destroyers League Standings

GMP x Yuman	4	0		
Islander Rent A Car	4	0		
Savemore	2	2		
Team Underground	2	2		
Star Water	2	2		
Saipan Tigers	1	3		
Jacob's Bakeshop	1	3		
Triskelion	0	4		

APPLIANCES
$10 FIRST MONTH
Refrigerators
Air Conditioners
Freezer Chests
Washers & Dryers
$10 FIRST MONTH
*This is a rent to own transaction. The first month's rental payment is $10. Regular rental rates apply thereafter.You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months= $517.40. See store for details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
Middle Road 234-RENT | Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL
DIAL
RENT TO OWN & RETAIL

Victor Wembanyama returns home for 2024 Olympics.

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Krishnan conquers field in July tourney.

PAGE 23

Guam out-goals Mongolia, 2-1

LEIGH GASES

Guam's Orung Santos leaps for a header during their game against Mongolia in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam out-goaled Mongolia, 2-1, on Day 2 of the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The first half saw intense back-and-forth action as both teams tried to get the best of the other. Guam had more chances at the goal that they could not convert, and the scoreless draw continued way into the end of the first half.

With still a 0-0 draw at the half, an extra four minutes of time was added. Guam inched closer to realizing a goal with each possession, and finally, Sarah Benavente juked Mongolia defenders after a far distance assist by teammate Richelle Ragadio at the 45+1-minute mark for a 1-0 lead.

Guam then looked for more insurance goals in the second half as it was still anybody's game. Mongolia made multiple pushes at the goal, but to no avail and a mistake by their keeper in the 65th minute proved to be a costly one.

It was Guam's possession and with a press by Olivia Haddock on the right wing, found herself face-to-face with the keeper. The keeper left the ball wide open on the ground and Haddock capitalized as she made a quick kick to her left for the second goal of the game, 2-0.

Guam breathed a little better as they sat at a 2-nil advantage. Mongolia then just tried to play catchup until the end to no avail. Their lone goal came a little too late with a penalty kick by Khaliut Mungkhgarid with less than 10 seconds in the two-minute extra time for a 2-1 final.

With Benavente, Haddock, and Ragadio on Guam's team are Kalle Damian, Cindy Maestrecampo, Ariya Cruz, Marlena Connelley, Orung Santos, Emily Walton, Ahela'aoku'upu'uwai Kaae, and Kalyn Savage. The substitutes include Feah Fejeran, Aiyanna Duenas, Yzabella Saddo, Crista Cruz, Jaelyn Han, Cadence Guzman, Hannah Charfauros, Razaiya Quiambao, and Ryley Munoz. Their head coach is Kimberly Sherman.

With Mungkhgarid on Mongolia's team are Zambaga Tumurbat, Ganbolor Tumenjargal, Enerel Sukhbat, Sarangua Boldbaatar, Anundari Khasgaa, Oyun-Erdene Bayaraa, Ariunzaya Khanidkhuu, Odon-Erdene Unenbat, Buyandelger Baatarsuren, and Chantsal Bayasgalant. The substitutes consist of Khongordagina Purevynyam, Binderiya Davaasuren, Gantigmaa Chuluuntsend, Oyudari Uyanga, Oyuntuguldur Batsaikhan, Oyuntogos Mart, Nomin Uyanga, Munkhzul Tumurbaatar, and Gankhishig Ganbold. Their head coach is Davaalkhagva Erdene-Ochir.

Last night was the rivalry matchup between the NMI and Guam, with results to follow. Today, the NMI takes on Mongolia again at 6pm. Catch the action at the NMISTC in Koblerville.

On Saturday, June 27, Guam

See GUAM on Page 23

No longer rivals and thriving

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Cuki and Shane Alvarez are thriving after no longer having to compete against each other in the Marianas Racing Association circuit since the former decided to just concentrate in the Veterans Class at the start of the 2024 season.

That decision paid off once again in last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi, as the father-and-son tandem once again dominated their respective classes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki, right, and Shane Alvarez pose after a recent race in the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

The younger Alvarez topped the Expert Class with another perfect 50 points after winning both heats. Corry Pangelinan was second with his 44 points, while MRA president Ellery Cruz completed the Top 3 with his 40 points.

"I got the hole shot and with a clear vision the mud didn't bother me much so I was able to ride smooth and hit all my lines. Had a strong first heat with a good lead. Second heat it dried the track up more and made it tacky which means great traction and grip. I got the hole shot again and was feeling really fast, but Corry Pangelinan was right behind me the whole time. He was putting the pressure on and even came side by side at

See NO on Page 23

Islander Rent A Car, Yuman undefeated

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Islander Rent A Car and GMP x Yuman are both undefeated with identical 4-0 win-loss records in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 after their games at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

The Islander Rent A Car team barely escaped the clutches of Savemore, 70-68.

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Raymond Velasco trying to push past a Savemore defender during their game in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-purpose Gymnasium.

It was a close game in the end, but Islander Rent A Car's Frank Ferrer opened the game with 5 quick points. He stayed hot and went on to score more and was complemented by teammate Webb Gontar, who also attacked the basket with aggressiveness.

Nikko Mejarito joined in on the mix and fired three back-to-back points as Savemore tried to play catchup.

Islander Rent A Car had a good enough lead at the half, 40-32. However, Savemore served up some points as they were led by Daryll Foronda and Alex Lauron.

Toward the end though, it all boiled down to crucial plays at the free throw line, with Islander Rent A Car's Ferrer solidifying himself the hero with two straight baskets for just a 2-point lead, 70-68.

Ferrer put up the most

See ISLANDER on Page 23